



**Photography V - ART 4023  
Spring 2025**

T/H, 9:30-12:20am

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Office Hrs: M/W/F 10:00-12:00

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**Course Description & Objectives**

The goal of this course is to emphasize the creation and evolution of a conceptually strong and technically skillful body of work, ultimately resulting in the final senior exhibition at the end of the semester. This will be accomplished by fostering a creative and intense working environment with the primary goal of encouraging creative decision-making, personal conceptual development, and a very high level of technical proficiency. Students are expected to research the various aspects of their chosen theme and incorporate this information into critiques and the work itself. Emphasis is placed on the depth of conceptual investigation and your ability to incorporate theoretical and historical knowledge into the work. It is also assumed you are proficient with all aspects of the photographic process as they pertain to your individual projects. Progress is monitored through group and individual critiques.

**Required Text & Materials**

You may work with any camera format/photographic process of your choice, with the assumption you have a working knowledge of all camera formats and digital imaging by the time you reach this level. If you feel as though you may have weaknesses in any of these areas, please see me individually so we can discuss your concerns. Also, please note that all critiques this semester will be done from printed materials. Digital projection may be used as a secondary supplement in your critiques, but it cannot be your primary method of showing work unless you are working toward a digital, non-printed exhibition (installation, video, etc.).

**Process of Evaluation**

All grading for thesis level work is done on an individual basis. The largest portion of your grade (70%) is determined by the conceptual depth and technical refinement of your body of work. Effort and participation during critiques (30%) is determined by how active and thoughtful you are in the discussion of your work and the work of other students. Please note: You will not be assigned letter grades or "points" for showing work in critiques, critique participation or class participation. I will discuss your progress and provide feedback during the individual meetings scheduled throughout the semester. It is also expected that you will take notes during discussions, critiques and individual meetings (have a notebook with you at all times), and it is understood that additional reading/research may be assigned at the discretion of your instructor as needed. All grading decisions at this level are final and your

instructor reserves the right to edit any work that is intended for display during the student exhibition.

## **Responsibilities - [Student Handbook](#)**

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Texas Tech's Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

**All work must be made specifically for this class during this semester.** No previously taken photos may be used. Failure to do so will result in an "F."

### **Classroom Conduct and Polices:**

- As a student at MSU Texas and as a student in HSOVA you are expected to conduct yourself in a courteous and mature manner.
- It is imperative that you work in a way that keeps the lab clean and organized and is respectful of other students. You must realize that your actions will affect others. Please be conscientious of your fellow students and be kind.
- Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class.
- You are expected to come to class prepared, having completed all reading assignments and arriving with any required materials. **You must shoot outside of class time so that you edit, compile, print, mount, and organize your photos during class time.** Use your class time wisely.
- Preparation for Critique: I highly recommend that you print at 1-2 days before critique. Printing is part of the process, not just the end point. Technology is fickle—printers jam, ink runs out, IT issues, etc.—please give yourself plenty of time to print. **You must have your photos printed BEFORE the start of class.** You will NOT be allowed to print during class on critique day.
- You are expected to contribute to critiques of the assignments and final projects, offering constructive criticism to their peers, and providing useful commentary about the work under discussion.
- Help each other, as you will learn as much from each other as you will learn from your instructor. I will do my best to create a safe, fun environment where you feel excited to make work.
- Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Tardiness is disruptive, so be on time.

- Be mindful of the lab schedule; you are NOT allowed to work in the lab during other classes (unless you have permission from that instructor in advance).
- Active participation and involvement during class includes:
  - Giving your full attention to instructor and classmates
  - Having an open-minded outlook
  - Participating in exercises and assignments
  - Giving feedback during discussions and critiques, verbal or written

### **Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance is required. You will be allowed 2 unexcused absences. Arriving 15 or more minutes late will equal an absence. Two late arrivals equal an absence. After 3 absences, the final letter grade is lowered one letter grade. 4 or more absences will result in a failing grade. Absences during critiques will not be tolerated. On critique days, a tardy will result in a reduction of one letter grade for the portfolio/assignment being critiqued; a tardy of more than fifteen minutes or an absence will result in a zero for the portfolio/assignment. Please contact your professor prior to missing class. Lectures and demonstrations are not repeated.

### [Disability Support Services](#)

If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

### **Assessment**

Grading will be based on student engagement of the material (by way of Self-Evaluation) and conversation with the instructor. Self-Evaluation will be due after every critique (both small and large), mid-semester, and end of semester.

An Evaluation Contract and Charter for Compassion will be compiled and agreed upon on the first day of class during class and disseminated the next class, where you will sign. An Evaluation Guideline will be compiled that will have both concrete and non-concrete qualities to reference for your evaluation.

This course will focus on qualitative, not quantitative, assessment of your own work (something we'll discuss during the class). I will give you verbal and/or written feedback by asking questions and giving comments to engage your work on every assignment. The intention here is to help you focus on working in a more organic way, as opposed to working as you think you're expected to. If this process causes more anxiety than it alleviates, see me at any point to confer about your progress in the course to date. If you are worried about your grade, your best strategy should be to consistently work on your projects, join the discussions, do the reading, and give feedback to your classmates.

### **Self-Evaluation**

Self-Evaluation guides will be uploaded on D2L. The guides are meant to help you reflect on your performance, but is not comprehensive and does not mean you must answer every point.

Small Critique: Submit a Self-Evaluation before the end of class on the day of small critique. You will be given class time to complete your self-evaluation. Submit on D2L. I will meet with everyone individually to go over your evaluation and give feedback.

Large Critique: Submit a Self-Evaluation no more than 3 days after you present in large critique. Submit on D2L. I will meet with everyone individually to go over your evaluation and give feedback.

You are allowed to re-submit your project with a Self-Evaluation and meet with me as many

times as needed. The only exception is the last project, which you will have only 1 week to resubmit due to time constraints.

### **Class Policies and Grading**

D2L will be used as the repository for class records. These include, syllabus, assignments, and lectures. You are expected to have the materials necessary for each class prior to class beginning and you are expected to have knowledge of your syllabus and the timeline of the course.

- **Late assignments will NOT be accepted.** All work is due on the assigned day.
- Grade percentages are determined according to the class requirements list. One grade based on a combination of craftsmanship and creativity is given for each critique.
- Withdrawals – It is the responsibility of the student to properly withdraw.
- Point value/grade distribution: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F
- A grade of "Incomplete" is granted only with a written doctor's excuse or under emergency circumstances such as a death in the family.

### **Gallery Attendance**

Students enrolled in studio or art history courses must attend every gallery opening and sign in at the reception desk. If the student cannot attend the gallery opening, they are required to write an exhibition review.

### **Student Privacy Statement**

In accordance with Federal Privacy Laws a student's personal information is protected. As an instructor it is unlawful for me to share your personal information (including grades) with anyone unless I have written consent. This means I will not be able to discuss your grades with parents. If you have questions about your grades or have forgotten the grading policy for the course, please come by during office hours.

### **Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices**

Cell phones must be silenced and put away completely out of sight and not looked at until the class is over. If at any point your cell phone is NOT put away and silenced, you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the day. The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited.

### **Campus Carry**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

## **Suggested Text Books**

1. "Exhibiting Photography: A Practical Guide to Choosing a Space, Displaying Your Work, and Everything in Between" by Shirley Read
2. "The Practical Handbook for the Emerging Artist" by Margaret Lazzari
3. "How to Survive and Prosper as an Artist: Selling Yourself Without Selling Your Soul" by Carol Michels

## **Required Materials:**

- Digital camera with full manual controls (dSLR or mirrorless)
- Memory card compatible with your camera, 64 GB or larger
- USB Drive and/or External Hard Drive
- Notebook/Sketchbook
- Post it notes, 3"x5" minimum size, 100 sheets
- Inkjet compatible photo paper. Recommended: Red River (Satin or Luster) paper, 8.5"x11" and/or larger.
- Portfolio for storage of prints and course materials
- Archival matboard, white.
- Acid-free linen tape
- Archival photo corners
- One Inkjet cartridge for Canon or Epson printers (to be assigned by instructor)

## **Requirements List – ART 4123                      Spring 2025**

All grading for thesis level work is done on an individual basis.

- 1. Project Proposal:    Jan 28    (10%)**  
Each student is required to create a project proposal that clearly states what will be produced at the conclusion of the project. A timeline and Budget must be included. Guideline sheet for writing will be provided.
  
- 2. Wichita Falls County Photography Exhibition    (10%)**  
Each student will produce photographic images that explore architectural and community spaces in Wichita County. Shoot a minimum of 200 images. Students will be required to submit their best images for a public art opportunity through the Wichita Falls Alliance for Art and Culture. Handouts will be provided.
  
- 3. Work in Progress Critiques:                      See below    (40%)**  
Each student is required to develop a concise body of creative work with a coherent theme. Each critique should demonstrate thoughtful technical and conceptual advancement in regard to the final body of work. A minimum of 10 images, 11x14 or larger or equivalent are required for each critique.
  
- 4. Artist Statement Drafts:    See below    (10%)**  
Each student is required to write an artist statement that accompanies the body of work created at the end of the semester. A guideline sheet will be provided.
  
- 5. Final Exhibition:    April 19th    (10%)**  
Each student will be graded on the final installation of their exhibition. This will include level of professionalism and technical and conceptual craft.
  
- 6. Digital Portfolio:    May 13    (10%)**  
Each student is required to document all photographic works produced during this semester. Include the final images from each critique – Minimum 20 images. Upload images to D2L. Label images by project title. EX: POV 1, Pov 2. Images should be no larger than 5MB and not smaller than 2MB.
  
- 7. Website:    May 13    (10%)**  
Each student is required to create a website for the purpose of professional development. The website will include both fine art and commercial photography galleries.

**All work must be in final presentation format at the time of the review.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Jan 21	Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Objectives, Supplies Studio Day / Writing exercise Handout proposal guidelines
	Jan 23	Writing exercise Lab Time: Brain storming and research for proposal
2	Jan 28	<b>Proposal Due</b>
	Jan 30	Studio Day
3	Feb 4	Lab Time: Individual meetings
	Feb 6	<b>1<sup>st</sup> draft artist statement</b>
4	Feb 11	<b>Critique</b>
	Feb 13	<b>Critique</b>
5	Feb 18	Photography Candidate Lecture
	Feb 20	Photography Candidate Lecture
6	Feb 25	Photography Candidate Lecture
	Feb 27	Exhibitions Handout Wichita Falls County Photography Exhibition
7	March 4	SPE Reno, NV Studio Day
	March 6	SPE Reno, NV Studio Day

8	March 11	Spring Break
	March 13	Spring Break
9	March 18	<b>2nd draft artist statement</b> Lab Time: Individual meetings
	March 20	<b>Critique</b>
10	March 25	<b>Critique</b>
	March 27	Anne Leighton Massoni Lecture - <a href="http://www.anneleightonmassoni.com">http://www.anneleightonmassoni.com</a> <a href="https://houmuse.org/institution/houston-center-for-photography/">https://houmuse.org/institution/houston-center-for-photography/</a>
11	April 1	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
	April 3	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
12	April 8	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
	April 10	<b>Final Artist Statement Due</b> Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
13	April 15	Senior Exhibition Installation
	April 17	Senior Exhibition Installation
14	April 22	Document Exhibition
	April 24	Document Exhibition Finish Website, Digital Portfolio and Presentation



15	April 29	Finish Website, Digital Portfolio and Presentation
	May 1	Finish Website, Digital Portfolio and Presentation
16	May 6	<b>Critique</b>
	May 8	<b>Critique</b>
17	May 13	<b>Digital portfolio and Website Due on D2L</b>
	May 15	<b>Senior Presentation: 5:30</b>
	May 16	<b>Fain Fine Arts Celebration: 2:00</b> <b>Senior Exhibition Reception: 6:00-8:00</b>