



Photography I – ART 2013

Spring 2025

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

leah.gose@msutexas.edu

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

Office Phone: 940-397-4274

Office: B128



Course Description

An introduction to the fundamentals of photography using a DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera. This course includes digital camera use and basic image manipulation controls using Photoshop. Introductory lighting and artwork reproduction skills are taught. The aesthetics of photography will be discussed in terms of its history, and artistic and technical advancements. Students must own or have use of a DSLR camera.

This is a highly labor-intensive course that requires a great deal of time outside the regular class meeting hours. Students will be expected to shoot no less than 100 digital images per week. Ideally, students should allocate time every day to take photographs; learning a new language requires daily practice. Allow more time for to produce conceptually and technically considered images for critiques. In addition, technical failures are a necessary part of the learning process. Therefore, students must allow enough weekly outside lab time (be mindful of lab hours). **Students are expected to be creating new work every week; work made previous to this class is not allowed to be turned in for class assignments.**

Course Objectives - Students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to manipulate shutter speed, aperture, and other camera controls to correctly expose an image using the camera meter.
- Use image manipulation software to optimize image files for web and print purposes.
- Utilize a variety of lighting techniques to create intended expressive goals.
- Discuss the technical and aesthetic merits of imagery using professional critique vocabulary
- Identify key historic figures and technical developments in the history of the field.
- Develop an understanding of the elements of visual design such as composition; space, contrast and light through slide lectures of historical and contemporary photographic artworks and gain an awareness of the historical quest for color.

Responsibilities - [Student Handbook](#)

[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.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures - [Office of Student Conduct](#)

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 to whom credit is given).

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.
- General studio cleanup will be the last 15 minutes of each class session. Students will maintain discipline in studio safety precautions, maintenance and upkeep throughout the semester. The instructor will drop those students not willing to take active part in those goals.
- 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
- **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."

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 84th 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>.

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.

IF YOU ARE IN THE BUILDING AFTER CLASS HOURS, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOUR STUDENT ID AND PROOF OF ENROLLMENT IN CLASS IF AN OFFICER ASKS FOR IT. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM AND NEED ASSISTANCE, CALL THE CAMPUS POLICE AT 397-4239.

Recommended Textbook

- *A Short Course in Digital Photography* by Barbara London and Jim Stone
- *Criticizing Photographs, 5th edition (2011)* by Terry Barrett

Required Materials:

- Digital camera with full manual controls (dSLR or mirrorless)
- Memory card compatible with your camera, 64 GB or larger
- USB Drive and External Hard Drive
- Notebook/Sketchbook
- Inkjet compatible photo paper. Recommended: Red River (Satin or Luster) paper, 8.5"x11" and/or larger. https://www.redrivercatalog.com/browse/68lb-ultrapro-satin.html?search_size=8.5%20%20%2011
- Portfolio for storage of prints and course materials
- Archival matboard, white. One 24"x36" sheet recommended.
- Acid-free linen tape
- Archival photo corners
- One Inkjet cartridge for Canon or Epson printers (to be assigned by instructor)

Assignments

1. **Perspective:** **Feb 11** **(15%)**
Each student is required to produce a coherent body of creative work (5-7 images). Shoot a minimum 200 images, print 8.5 x11 or larger. Contact sheets required. Projects must be contained in a portfolio box. Handouts will be provided.

2. **Wichita Falls County Photography Exhibition** **(15%)**
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. **Motion:** **March 18** **(15%)**
Each student is required to produce a coherent body of creative work (5-7 images). Shoot a minimum 200 images, print 8.5 x11 or larger. Contact sheets required. Projects must be contained in a portfolio box. 2 prints **MUST** be window matted. Handouts will be provided.

4. **Depth of Field:** **April 15** **(15%)**
Each student is required to produce a coherent body of creative work (5-7 images). Shoot a minimum 200 images, print 8.5 x11 or larger. Contact sheets required. Projects must be contained in a portfolio box. 2 prints **MUST** be window matted. Handouts will be provided.

5. **It's all about the light:** **May 6** **(15%)**
Each student is required to produce a coherent body of creative work (5-7 images). Shoot a minimum images, print 8.5 x11 or larger. Contact sheets required. Projects must be contained in a portfolio box. 2 prints **MUST** be window matted. Handouts will be provided.

7. **Digital Portfolio:** **May 13** **(10%)**
Each student is required to upload all final critique images produced during this semester to D2L. Include the final images from each critique – Minimum 25 images. Label images by project title. EX: L&S 1, L&S 2. Images should be no smaller than 2MB and no larger than 5MB.

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

Week	Day	Description
1	Jan 21	Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Objectives Supplies - Paper Discussion Homework: Get your DSLR camera and owner's manual
	Jan 23	Camera Basics / Digital SLR, Image Capture, Metering Assignment #1: Perspective – assignment and lecture
2	Jan 28	PH 1 Photo shoot together
	Jan 30	Printing Demo Lab Time: Go photograph or edit
3	Feb 4	Digital imaging categories & tools Computer Work station and Work Flow
	Feb 6	Matt board cutting demo Finish editing and printing
4	Feb 11	Critique: Perspective
	Feb 13	Critique: 2, 3, 5
5	Feb 18	Assignment #2: Motion – assignment and lecture – D2L Photography Candidate Lecture
	Feb 20	Photography Candidate Lecture
6	Feb 25	Photography Candidate Lecture
	Feb 27	Exhibitions Handout Wichita Falls County Photography Exhibition Lab Time: Class editing and printing Individual meetings
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	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
	March 20	Critique: Motion
10	March 25	Critique: 2, 3, 5 Assignment #3: DOF – assignment and lecture on D2L
	March 27	Anne Leighton Massoni Lecture - http://www.anneleightonmassoni.com https://houmuse.org/institution/houston-center-for-photography/
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	Assignment #4: Light – assignment and lecture Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
13	April 15	Critique: DOF
	April 17	Holiday Break – No Class

14	April 22	Lab Time: Individual meetings
	April 24	Lab Time: Individual meetings
15	April 29	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
	May 1	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
16	May 6	Finish editing, printing, cutting mat boards Lab Time: Individual meetings
	May 8	Critique: It's All About the Light
17	May 13	Digital Portfolio Due
	May 15	Finals Week