HU 2632 - Fundamentals of Digital Photography

Fall 2009
Walker 134, Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:55pm
Instructor: Brian Parmeter
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Office: 313 Walker

Objective:
HU2632 teaches the basic techniques of digital photography and photographic composition.

Course Requirements:
* Attend and participate in class discussion and lab demonstrations, and portfolio review.
* Complete all tests and assignments.
* Read all relevant chapters in textbook: Foundation Course Digital Photography (Cassell Illustrated, 2006)
* Compile photographic portfolio

Grading:
The course breaks down into three main sections: 1. Technique, 2. Visual Literacy, and 3. Photo Essay. Your final grade will be the average of the three section grades (25% each). Additionally, 10% will be based on attendance and participation in class discussion. (Note: If you anticipate excused or unexcused absences, it is your responsibility to contact me to discuss the material you will miss prior to the absence.)

There will be several writing assignments which should be typed (double-spaced, 12 pt text), with your name and the assignment title at the top of the page.

All photo assignments should be delivered in a sealable envelope with your name and assignment title clearly indicated. Assignments turned in late will be docked one letter grade. No assignments will be accepted more than three working days after the due date (except with medical documentation in the case of illness).

If you are unsatisfied with your grade on a writing or shooting assignment you have the option to re-do it. Re-dos are due three working days after they are returned to you, and should be turned in with the original. The highest score possible on a re-do is a B. The re-do option is not available for the final Photo Essay. Also, the re-do option is only available for assignments that are turned in by the original deadline.

There will be one quiz in section 1, and a final section exam for sections 1 and 2.

Section one: Technique
This section will be hands on. You will learn:
* the basic operation of your camera
* lens theory and practice
* sensor design and theory
* tonal and color theory
* understanding exposure and histograms
* workflow (the photographic need or objective, pre-visualizing, planning/scheduling the shoot, editing, cataloging, Adobe Bridge, PhotoShop, printing
Section two: Visual Literacy
This section will familiarize you with the basics of photographic composition and the language of photographic critique.

Section three: Final project - Photo Essay
The topic for your final project, a photo essay, will be determined no later than week 8. The due date for the final project is Friday, December 12th, 4:00pm. I’ll provide detailed instructions/requirements on the Photo Essay as we begin the section on Visual Literacy.

University Policies:
Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies.

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310.

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

Affirmative Action:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aap/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Equal Opportunity Statement:
Calendar:

Week 1 Discussion/lecture: Syllabus review, course design (intentional vs point-and-shoot approach, writing/Writing Center, conversion to digital emphasis, camera check) tour of HDMZ.
Assignments: Luck textbook, read chapter: “Tools of the trade”
Writing Assignment #1 (will be sent via email and posted to BlackBoard)

Week 2 Discussion/lecture from textbook reading “Tools of the Trade”, intro to workflow, intro to exposure control including ISO/noise, shutter-speed (freezing and blurring action) and aperture (depth of field)
Assignments: Luck textbook, read chapter: “Capturing your image”
Shooting Assignment #1 - open topic.

Week 3 Discussion/lecture from textbook reading “Capturing your image”, HDMZ exercises (logging in, intro to Lynda.com, downloading images from camera, editing “the shoot” in Adobe Bridge. PhotoShop: conversion to grayscale, rotating and cropping, brightness/contrast manipulation, file saving).
Assignments: Luck textbook, read chapter: “Basic image editing”
Shooting Assignment #2 - aperture control

Week 4 Peer Critique of Shooting Assignment #2
Discussion/lecture in HDMZ - PhotoShop editing continued - more tools
Assignments: Shooting Assignment #3 - Shutter-speed control

Week 5 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 6 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 7 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 8 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 9 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 10 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:
Week 11 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 12 Discussion/lecture
Assignments:

Week 13 Discussion/lecture
Assignments

Week 14 Discussion/lecture
Assignments

Note: I reserve the option to make adjustments to the calendar as needed for optimizing the learning experience of the class.