HU 2633 Fundamentals of Digital Imaging  
Fall Semester, 2011  
Walker - Arts & Humanities 0120A  
TR 9:35 am-10:50 am  

Prof. Stefka Hristova  
shristov@mtu.edu (Expect a response time of up to 2 days)  
Office: Walker 344  
Office Hours: W 9:00am – 11:00am  

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course explores the history, aesthetics, theory, and practice of photography in the digital environment.  
This course will combine the practice of creating and manipulating digital photographs with theoretical  
and historical discussions. While this course deals with contemporary digital photography, it will evoke  
photographic practice more broadly by engaging in depth with the Keweenaw Digital Archives. More  
specifically, students will be assigned a historical location represented in the Archive, and will be asked to  
provide a contemporary perspective. Digital photography will be engaged in a portfolio format as well as  
in a video game settings. Students learn in-depth digital camera and imaging production techniques using  
CS Adobe Photoshop 5.5. For the practical assignments, students must provide their own digital camera,  
preferably a digital SLR.  

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:  
You will be asked to lead one theory discussion, complete your weekly praxis assignments, and submit a  
final paper and portfolio. The first half of the course will engage digital photography in its production  
phase, while the second will focus on post-production editing with CS Photoshop. In the production  
section of the course, you will be asked to take 50 pictures for each assignment, and present in class 10  
selected photographs along with a critical analysis of your practical work. At the end of the course, the  
images from your assigned location will be organized in a portfolio. Additionally, modified images will be  
placed in an interactive iPhone game, along with the historical images from the Keweenaw archive that  
picture this same location. Your final paper will engage the readings in relation to digital and digitized  
photography. Students must also be prepared to discuss assigned critical readings in class, and they will be  
evaluated on their participation in those discussions.  

GRADING POLICY:  
Discussion Leadership: 10%  
Six Praxis (Theory and Practice) Assignments: 60% (10% each)  
Final Paper and Final Portfolio 20%  
Attendance and participation: 10%  
Total: 100%  

GRADING SYSTEM  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Points/Credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88% - 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% - 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% - 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
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I 60% and below
Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control. A grade of incomplete may be given only when approved in writing by the department chair or school dean.

X Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up within the next semester in residence or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.

REQUIRED CORE TEXTS:
On Photography by Susan Sontag
The New Photography Manual: the complete guide to film and digital cameras and techniques by Steve Bavister

REQUIRED CORE TECHNOLOGY:
Digital SLR desired.
Flash Drive required.

IMPORTANT DATES:
SEPT 27, OCT 4, OCT 11, NOV 1, 8, 15 TUESDAYS in CLASS PRAXIS ASSIGNMENTS DUE
NOV 29 – DEC 6 FINAL PORTFOLIO AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS DUE
THURSDAY DEC 15 FINAL PAPER DUE

NOTE ON ATTENDANCE AND DEADLINES:
Attendance is mandatory at the lectures and discussions. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Prompt attendance for the full meeting time is essential because each class will cover large areas of study in a short amount of time. Do not turn an assignment in late and expect a grade for the assignment. It is not fair to students who worked hard to get their assignments in on time for an instructor to accept late work. This is a reading intensive class. Do not complete your assignments at the last minute. Check your computers and printers to make sure that they are in working order on the week the assignment is due.
TUESDAY AUG 30 INTRODUCTION

THURSDAY SEPT 1 INTRODUCTION
Readings: pp. 36-49 in Photography: A Critical Introduction

PART 1: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: PRODUCTION

TUESDAY SEPT 6 PRACTICE – DIGITAL ARCHIVE/DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH
Visit to the Keweenaw Digital Archives

THURSDAY SEPT 8 THEORY

TUESDAY SEPT 13 PRACTICE – GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAMERA

THURSDAY SEPT 15 THEORY
Readings: “Sweet t is to scan...: personal photographs and popular photography” in Photography: A Critical Introduction

TUESDAY SEPT 20 PRACTICE – GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAMERA CONT'D.

THURSDAY SEPT 22 THEORY

TUESDAY SEPT 27 PRACTICE – PLACES (PRAXIS ASSIGNMENT # 1 DUE)

THURSDAY SEPT 29 THEORY
Readings: “Spectacle and Illusion: photography and commodity culture” in Photography: A Critical Introduction

TUESDAY OCT 4 PRACTICE – PEOPLE (PRAXIS ASSIGNMENT # 2 DUE)

THURSDAY OCT 6 THEORY
Readings: “On and Beyond the White Walls: photography as art” in Photography: A Critical Introduction

TUESDAY OCT 11 PRACTICE – THINGS (PRAXIS ASSIGNMENT # 3 DUE)

THURSDAY OCT 13 THEORY

PART II DIGITAL IMAGING - POST-PRODUCTION
TUESDAY OCT 18 PRACTICE - PHOTOSHOP
Readings: "Getting to Know the Work Area" in *Adobe Photoshop CS5 Classroom in a Book: The Official Training Workbook from Adobe Systems*

THURSDAY OCT 20 THEORY
Readings: "Melancholy Objects" in *On Photography* by Susan Sontag

TUESDAY OCT 25 PRACTICE - PHOTOSHOP
Readings: Basic Photo Corrections” in *Adobe Photoshop CS5 Classroom in a Book: The Official Training Workbook from Adobe Systems* and “Correcting and Enhancing Digital Photographs” in *Adobe Photoshop CS5 Classroom in a Book: The Official Training Workbook from Adobe Systems*

THURSDAY OCT 27 THEORY
Readings: “America, Seen through Photographs, Darkly” in *On Photography* by Susan Sontag

TUESDAY NOV 1 PRACTICE - PHOTOSHOP (PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT # 4 DUE)

THURSDAY NOV 3 THEORY

Readings: TUESDAY NOV 8 PRACTICE - PHOTOSHOP (PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT # 5 DUE)
“Layer Basics” in *Adobe Photoshop CS5 Classroom in a Book: The Official Training Workbook from Adobe Systems*

THURSDAY NOV 10 THEORY

TUESDAY NOV 15 PRACTICE - PHOTOSHOP (PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT # 6 DUE)
Readings: “Masks and Channels” in *Adobe Photoshop CS5 Classroom in a Book: The Official Training Workbook from Adobe Systems*

THURSDAY NOV 17 THEORY
Readings: Sarah Kember “The Shadow of the Object: Photography and Realism” (PDF)
Geoffrey Batchen “Photogenicity” (PDF)
Lev Manovich “The Paradoxes of Digital Photography” (PDF)

TUESDAY NOV 29 PRACTICE – FINAL PORTFOLIO REVIEW

THURSDAY DEC 1 THEORY -- FINAL PAPER PRESENTATION

TUESDAY DEC 6 PRACTICE – FINAL PORTFOLIO REVIEW CONT'D

THURSDAY DEC 8 THEORY – FINAL PAPER PRESENTATION CONT'D

THURSDAY DEC 15 THEORY – FINAL PAPER DUE