



BCLA ARTS 1107 Introduction to Photography

CAPA BARCELONA PROGRAM

Course Description

This course is designed for beginning students in photography, and specifically presents digital camera techniques as a means of personal expression. Observing/capturing, digital process, printing and screen presentation will be addressed in relation to specific subjects, intentions and aesthetic judgements. The particular study abroad experience of each student will be one of the main focuses throughout the semester. Students are expected to bring a digital camera and a laptop with some means of editing (although computers and basic Photoshop is available in the computer lab.)

Course Aims

The goals of this course are to present to students the origins of photography from a philosophical and practical point of view and link this knowledge to a practical and aesthetic use of the digital camera. The course will also address some modern and contemporary photography to enhance student viewpoints in relation to subject and expression. The course will present as well the rapid development of digital photography and its complexities and give students the basic techniques to become autonomous at a technical level as they explore possibilities for different assignments. Students will be asked to question the own vision, what actually is involved in “making an image,” and develop their critical sense in relation to the works of their peers.

Requirements and Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. All students must have a digital camera to participate in the course.

Learning Outcomes

- a. Students will be able to use a digital camera at manual and automatic mode.
- b. Students will learn the basic rules concerning camera lens. Students will be able to identify and use any digital camera set up.
- c. Students will be able to choose which mode is the most appropriate to the situation they want to shoot.
- d. Students will be able to behave appropriately with a camera according to situations (relation to the subject, known or unknown person, street shooting...).
- e. Students will be able to analyze photographs and intuit how the photo was taken.
- f. Students will be familiar with some basic digital editing software such as Photoshop.
- g. Students will be able to use a photograph for print or website.
- h. Students will be able to respond in a creative way to different exercises.
- i. Students will develop curiosity, generosity and commitment to a collaborative undertaking.
- j. Students will develop a critical point of view in relation to digital photography.

Developmental Outcomes

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences.

Class methodology

Instruction is given by lecture of the teacher. The student should take notes and organize them well in notebook or sketchbook so he or she can refer to it if needed. The student will also use the notebook to prepare exercises and to clarify his/her ideas and intentions for each project. The teacher will gather sketchbooks to note student progress and preparedness. The student will explore and practice in class outings what he/she gleaned from each lecture (shooting, digital edition, printing etc.). Weekly practical assignments by the professor which students will respond to with individualized proposals for each assignment. The professor will also meet individually with students in relation to their final projects. The course includes student group critiques guided by the professor.

Assessment/Grading Policy

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| • <u>Individual Project</u> | 15% |
| • <u>Collaborative Student Project</u> | 10% |
| • <u>Personal Notebook</u> | 10% |
| • <u>Mid-term and Final Critiques</u> | 65% |

Overall grade	100%
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DESCRIPTOR	ALPHA	NUMERIC	GPA	REQUIREMENT/EXPECTATION
Outstanding (High Distinction)	A	93+	4.0	Maximum grade: In addition to description for grade "A-", the student shows detailed understanding of materials about which he or she can show independent analytical ability. This means the ability to question an issue from different perspectives and evaluate responses in an objective manner.
Excellent (Distinction)	A-	90 - 92	3.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook/class hand-outs/class notes, and the work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for evaluation.
Very good (High Credit)	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows evidence of a capacity to generalise from the taught content, or the material in literature, or from class lectures in an informed manner. Also, the work demonstrates a capacity to integrate personal reflection into the discussion and an appreciation of a range of different perspectives.
Good (Credit)	B	83 - 86	3.0	The work is well organised and contains coherent or logical argumentation and presentation.
Good (Credit)	B-	80 - 82	2.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook and/or notes, and, there is evidence of additional reading.
Average (Good Pass)	C+	77-79	2.3	The work demonstrates a capacity to integrate research into the discussion and a critical appreciation of a range of theoretical perspectives. Also, the work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question and its theoretical implications and demonstrates evidence of additional reading.
Adequate (Pass)	C	73 - 76	2.0	Shows clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond. A deficiency in understanding the material may be compensated by evidence of independent thought and effort related to the subject matter.
Below Average (Borderline Pass)	C-	70-72	1.7	Shows some understanding of the material in the textbook and notes. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought related to the subject matter.
Inadequate (Borderline Fail)	D+	67 - 69	1.3	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
Poor (Fail)	D	60 - 66	0.7 - 1.0	Besides the above for D+, student has not shown interest or engagement in the class work or study.
Poor (Fail)	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material
Incomplete	I			Please see CAPA policy in the Faculty Handbook.

Dress Code

No requirements.

Course Materials

Photo and video documents, books and texts from the library and internet.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week I:	Orientation and introduction to the course. Student introductions. Exercise: Self-portrait.
Week II:	Introduction to the history of photography. The differences between silver photography and digital photography. Exercise: Intuitive photography.
Week III:	Digital rules (definition of camera function). How to use a camera lens. Exercises in class: Blur/speed/light/depth of field...
Week IV:	Automatic vs manual, the choice, the limits. Exercise: Texture and graphic "all over"/Abstraction.
Week V:	White balance, source of lights, flash... Exercise: Same subject shoot in Black and White /Color photo.
Week VI:	How to compose an image. References to painting/cinema... Exercise: Different types of portraits.
Week VII:	How to transfer and edit images on computer. Part I Exercise: Still life.
Week VIII:	How to transfer and edit images on computer. Part II Exercise: Still life.
Week IX:	Midterm exams.
Week X:	Images for the web. Exercise: Creation of a blog: short visual documentary on chosen topic.
Week XI:	Printing process.
Week XII:	Personal Project.
Week XIII:	Personal Project.
Week XIV:	Final critiques.

Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

Attendance: CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and potentially a failure for the course.

Missing classes for medical reasons: If you need to miss a class for medical reasons or for a family emergency, you must send an e-mail to let the Director of Academic Affairs know at least one hour in advance of your class or meeting at the following e-mail: _____. Note that calling the CAPA Center (_____) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. You will need to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. Unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction. In the event of a missed class or field trip, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor and make up any missed assignments.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a

high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class: All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs or the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators: In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission: Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations: During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.