

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Digital Photography

Course code: ART 151

Semester and year: Fall 2021

Day and time: Monday, September 6th – Monday, December 13th // 11:30 - 14:15

Instructor: MA Björn Steinz

Instructor contact: bjorn.steinz@aauni.edu

Consultation hours: By appointment online or on Mondays from 17:30 to 18:00

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Introductory
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	None
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	HSC, JC, PS, Elective, CEA

1. Course Description

An introduction to the fundamentals of still digital photography with a balanced emphasis on practical, technical, aesthetic, and conceptual skill sets. The student will gain general experience in digital photography through lectures, demonstrations, assignments, practice, readings, critiques, and research. The curriculum emphasizes craft, photographic vision, and visual problem solving using a digital SLR and digital darkroom processes. Visual design concepts along with historical and contemporary photographic images will be stressed with an emphasis on the traditional rules of composition and photographic design.

Coursework will provide a platform for students to explore technique and process as well as their own creative pursuits. Particular emphasis will be placed on concept development, digital capture, editorial technique, and digital presentation. Post- production software programs will be introduced and utilized for image correction and adjustment. A key component of the course is the ongoing work on each student's chosen theme for creating a final portfolio.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe and execute proper operation of a digital camera

- Gain and demonstrate a working knowledge of shutter speeds, aperture settings, ISO Settings, light, exposure and camera angles in order to achieve desired images (the exposure triangle)
- Name and understand the basic mechanics of a digital camera
- Demonstrably calculate the equivalent relationships between shutter speeds, aperture settings, and film speeds.
- Demonstrate an understanding of photographic concepts and vocabulary.
- To discuss how and what photographs communicate through careful analysis of your and your fellow students work.
- To create a series of images that conveys a particular theme or concept as proposed by the student.
- Inform and educate the class on different photographers and photographic styles through individual presentations and gallery visits
- To provide a very broad overview of digital photography as a unique form of the medium as both an art form and a technical craft.
- Understand and demonstrate proficiency in image adjustment software.

3. Reading Material

Throughout the semester, excerpts from selected books, topical articles, links to videos and other materials will be posted on the course web site. Reading Material (most of these books are not available the AAU library but can be found online to view or to purchase):

"After Photography" / Fred Ritchin

"Ways of Seeing" / John Berger

"Looking at Photographs" / John Szarkowski

"The Photobook: A History 1-3" / Martin Parr and Gerry Badger

"Believing Is Seeing: Observations on the Mysteries of Photography" / Errol Morris

"Naked city" / Weegee

"Understanding a Photograph" / John Berger

"Photography Changes Everything" / Marvin Heiferman

Videos:

Much of this course involves "visual" learning experience. Several videos of related topics will be either posted on the web site (links) or on reserve at Library. When noted as such, these videos are considered required "watching" for the course.

Of particular interest is the BBC series, The Genius of Photography (<https://archive.org/details/tGoPhoto>) which will give students a clear and concise overview of the history of photography and how we have come to the "digital age". The series also examines the work of influential photographers both documentary style and others.

Gallery Visits:

Throughout the semester we will be visiting one current exhibition. Students will write a short "report" and critique of the exhibit.

Recommended Materials

- **A real camera (that has Manual functions), NO MOBILE PHONES with a camera, NO COMPACT CAMERAS without manual functions for this course.**
- A small flash drive to store and transfer images
- Access to and use of a computer and internet outside of class
- Manual for your camera (either printed or electronic format)
- Journal for ideas, thoughts, gallery notes etc.

4. Teaching methodology

Lectures, Readings, Discussion, Presentations, Exercises and Workshop style instruction followed by **fieldwork**. As much time as possible students will practise in the field with different assignments.

The course is **highly interactive** with weekly assignments. Students are expected to discuss their work and the work of other students in class. A significant portion of each class time will be spent on reviewing and discussing student work. Students will pick a project or theme to work on through the semester.

Classes will typically be an hour or so of lecture/information and then out shooting, gallery or in class review and work on images. The emphasis on this class is shooting, shooting, shooting. The best way to learn and experience photography is by taking pictures.

Late assignments are **NOT** accepted and will be only graded if there is a reasonable explanation such as illness or anything similar.

5. Course Schedule

Date	Class Agenda
Class 1, Monday, September 6th	<p>Topic: Introduction lecture</p> <p>Description: What to expect ? What is the goal of the course ? Presentation of my own photography. Personal project introduction and overview. Discussion of resources needed for the course.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: For next class: 1. Set up your personal flickr account 2. Please bring - if possible - a selection of your best 10 favourites photographs as prints or upload them to your flickr accounts 3. Think of three ideas for a visual portfolio you will create during the semester.</p>
Class 2, Monday, September 13th	<p>Topic: Camera, lenses and an introduction into the technical principles.</p> <p>Description: The exposure triangle. Influence of shutter speed, Iso and aperture for the photographic image (expression). Depth of field, f-stop, movement, long and short exposure. Workshop: Viewing students photographs in class. Analyzing and refining individual portfolio ideas</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Assignment related to technical principles, Final Written Project Statement and Storyboard for the Project</p>
Class 3, Monday, September 20th	<p>Topic: Compositional basics</p> <p>Description: Lines, Curves, Point of View, Golden Cut and other elements for creating a composition. Presentation and discussion of the individual project ideas and concepts. Workshop: Review and feedback for the technical assignment.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Assignment about composition (lines and curves etc.), Start working on your personal portfolio and post at least 15 project related images to flickr</p>

<p>Class 4, Monday, September 27th</p>	<p>Topic: All photography is the capturing of light. A journey in images.</p> <p>Description: The birth of photography and the inventors: Nicéphore Niépce, Louis Daguerre, William Henry Fox Talbot. Camera obscura and the next steps in recording light. The development of different genres and categories in the photographic expression. Workshop: Review and feedback to the composition assignment in class.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Choose one photographer/photograph of the artists presented in class and analyze his/her work in an opinion paper. Post at least 15 project related images to flickr</p>
<p>Class 5, Monday, October 4th</p>	<p>Topic: File formats and post production software.</p> <p>Description: What is a RAW file ? Differences from JPEG, Tiff format and RAW files. What they mean and how we use them. Images sizes and in camera adjustments - LowRes versus HighRes. Movie: Everybody street</p> <p>Workshop: Review and feedback students photographs in class.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Upload 15 images to your Flickr account. Topic: Personal portfolio</p>
<p>Class 6, Monday, October 11th</p>	<p>Topic: Excursion "The Prague Towers"</p> <p>Description: Photographing the "Kings Road" and views from at least 2 different "Prague Towers" in the historical center of Prague. An excursion about photography, views from above and the possibility to ask question related to technical and compositional issues.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Upload a selection of at least 15 images to your Flickr accounts.</p>
<p>Class 7, Monday, October 18th</p>	<p>Topic: Field trip</p> <p>Description: Gallery visit to a current exhibition in Prague.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Write an exhibition critique/review</p>
<p>Monday, October 25th</p>	<p>NO CLASS // Mid-term Break</p>

<p>Class 8, Monday, November 1st</p>	<p>Topic: Light Painting</p> <p>Description: Light is important in relation to the technical aspects of photography. Capturing light (and specifically moving light) in the dark requires a tripod and a camera set on a slow shutter speed. To capture the motion, long exposures are required. Workshop: Review and feedback to students photographs in class.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Create and upload a selection of at least 15 light painting images to your Flickr accounts.</p>
<p>Class 9, Monday, November 8th</p>	<p>Topic: Unpredictable: Documentary ideas</p> <p>Description: The field of Documentary Photography is much wider than just reproducing reality - it can be an interpretation of our lives and the human condition in general. Duane Michals, Michael Wolf and others which found a new way in contemporary documentary photography.</p> <p>Workshop: Individual feedback to the Flickr feed</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Upload 15 portfolio related images to your Flickr account.</p>
<p>Class 10, Monday, November 15th</p>	<p>Topic: The Portrait Self-portrait</p> <p>Description: Different approaches and ideas in portraiture and self portraiture from the history up to contemporary photography</p> <p>Workshop: Review and feedback students photographs in class.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Upload 15 images to your Flickr account. Topic: Portrait Self-portrait</p>
<p>Class 11, Monday, November 22nd</p>	<p>Topic: Guest lecture (in class or online presentation)</p> <p>Description: Presentation and Q&A with a working photographer giving us an inside look at his/her profession and daily work.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Opinion paper about the presentation of our guest and his/her work</p>

<p>Class 12, Monday, November 29th</p>	<p>Topic: Conceptual Photography</p> <p>Description: Conceptual photography speaks through images. Each image captures a powerful message capable of transmitting highly abstract concepts to our thoughts. Examples of the work by Die Bechers, Sophie Calle, Andreas Gursky and more...</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Select a wide edit of possible candidates for your final portfolio and send them to me via "WeTransfer" (up to 50/60 images)</p>
<p>Class 13, Monday, December 6th</p>	<p>Topic: Editing, sequencing & post production</p> <p>Description: How to find and choose the right final 10 images which are working in a sequence and telling a personal story as a portfolio ? Final editing and post production, individual advice and feedback to the edits in an in class or online session.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Upload the 10 final post produced image edits till Wednesday to your Flickr account in a separate exhibition gallery and send me the post produced images via "WeTransfer" for printing the exhibition images</p>
<p>Class 14, Friday, December 10th</p>	<p>Topic: Final exhibition</p> <p>Description: Preparation and installation of the final exhibition !!! Opening of the exhibition during the afternoon.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Prepare for the final exam.</p>
<p>Class 15, Monday, December 13th</p>	<p>Topic: Final exam</p> <p>Description: Testing the knowledge gained during the semester</p>

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Attendance and Class Participation	42	20%	Daily contribution to class and preparation based on reading assignments, videos, websites, etc., Ability to explain the studied topic to peers and identify key issues.	1/2/3
Photography assignments	35	25 %	Photography assignments such as technique, composition, light painting, self-portrait and so further.	1/2/3
Final Portfolio Project Exhibition	35	25 %	Final Portfolio Project consistent with students images of a free chosen topic produced during the semester and showcased with an exhibition	1/2/3
Writings	19	15 %	Essays, Analysis, Critique, Concepts etc. Constructive feedback on your peers' work.	1/2/3
Final Exam	19	15 %	Testing all knowledge attained throughout the semester.	1/2/3
TOTAL	150	100%		

*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Act

7. Detailed description of the assignments / Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Assignment Nr. 1 - Proposal for the personal portfolio project	Not graded
Assignment Nr. 2 - Technical shooting assignment	2,78 %

Assignment Nr. 3 - Composition shooting assignment	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 4 - Opinion paper about one photographer	3,75 %
Assignment Nr. 5 - Personal portfolio images	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 6 - The Prague Towers - upload 15 images.	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 7 - Write an exhibition critique/review	3,75 %
Assignment Nr. 8 - Light painting - upload 15 images	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 9 - Upload 15 portfolio related images	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 10 - Portrait Self-portrait upload 15 images	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 11 - Opinion paper about the presentation of our guest and his/her work	3,75 %
Assignment Nr. 12 - Select a wide edit of possible candidates for your final portfolio and send them to me via "WeTransfer" (up to 50/60 images)	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 13 - Upload the 10 final post produced image edits till Wednesday to your Flickr account in a separate exhibition gallery and send me the post produced images via "WeTransfer" for printing the exhibition images	2,78 %
Assignment Nr. 14 - Prepare a written statement about the portfolio project, Exhibition installation	3,75 %
Final exhibition	25 %

Assessed area	Percentage
Participation: Corporation during class such as discussion and analysis of the material introduced during the lectures which will give the students a deeper understanding about the theoretical and practical aspects of documentary photography.	20 %

Portfolio project plus practical assignments: The portfolio projects is the main practical part during the semester and students will work continuously under individual guidance on their self chosen thematic portfolio which will be exhibited on Flickr during and in the end of the semester as a print exhibition at school. Each class student will present their work in progress for discussing the individual theme and the improvement which will be combined with 9 shooting assignments plus editing and the artist statement. Further on it is of high importance to learn how to built and sequence a visual story.*	50 %
Writings: Students will analyze in essays the work of historical and contemporary photographers and movements introduced during class. Critical thinking and a personal opinion is of high importance in those writings.	15 %
Final Exam: All theoretical knowledge introduced during the semester will be part of the final exam where students will describe and analyse a documentary photography project.	15 %

*The **Portfolio Project** (25%) plus 9 weekly assignments (25%) all together 50% of the grade

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules in the Academic Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

Electronic communication and submission

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication, with additional communication via NEO LMS or Microsoft Teams.

Students sending e-mail to an instructor shall clearly state the course code and the topic in the subject heading, for example, "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question".

All electronic submissions are through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take-home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

Attendance

Attendance, i.e., presence in class in real-time, is highly expected and encouraged. Students in Prague are not allowed to join classes online (just in the case of illness or similar issues exceptions are possible). Students who are absent 35 percent of classes will be failed. Students might also be marked absent if they miss a significant part of a class (by arriving late or leaving early) as specified in the syllabus.

Absence excuse and make-up options

Should a student be absent from classes for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), and the student wishes to request that the absence be excused, the student should submit an Absence Excuse Request Form supplemented with documents providing reasons for the absence to the Dean of Students within one week of the absence. If possible, it is recommended the instructor be informed of the absence in advance. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if s/he submits an Absence Excuse Request Form along with the finalized add/drop form.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean of Students are entitled to make up assignments and exams provided their nature allows. Assignments missed due to unexcused absences which cannot be made up, may result in a decreased or failing grade as specified in the syllabus.

Students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week of the date the absence was excused to arrange for make-up options.

Late work: Late assignments are NOT accepted and will be only graded if there is a reasonable explanation such as illness or anything similar.

Electronic devices

Electronic devices (e.g. phones, tablets, laptops) may be used only for class-related activities (taking notes, looking up related information, etc.). Any other use will result in the student being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. No electronic devices may be used during tests or exams unless required by the exam format and the instructor.

Eating is not allowed during classes.

Cheating and disruptive behavior

If a student engages in disruptive conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the class and shall report the behavior to the student's Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misconduct, the student will fail the exam or assignment and be expelled from the exam or class.

Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center

Plagiarism is "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin's White Paper 'The Plagiarism Spectrum' (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one's own previous work without citation; To self-plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The "Aggregator" includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure.

At minimum, plagiarism from types 1 through 8 will result in a failing grade for the assignment and shall be reported to the student's Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, and to improve their academic writing, students are encouraged to consult with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Course accessibility and inclusion

Students with disabilities should contact the Dean of Students to discuss reasonable accommodations. Academic accommodations are not retroactive.

Students who will be absent from course activities due to religious holidays may seek reasonable accommodations by contacting the Dean of Students in writing within the first two weeks of the term. All requests must include specific dates for which the student requests accommodations.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by and when: Björn Steinz, 3rd of July 2021

Approved by and when: Alzbeta Klatova 26/7/21