



Santa Reparata International School of Art  
Course Syllabus

**Semester Course**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Photography: Analog and Digital Photography

**SRISA Course Number:** SART 2503

**Maryville Course Number:** ART 215

**Credit Hours:** 3, Contact Hours: 90

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students of this foundation photography course will explore the medium of analog and digital photography from a technical, conceptual and creative point of view. They will study the basics of SLR and DSLR camera operation, as well as learn film processing, black and white printing and imaging software and printing techniques. While establishing technical skills, students will investigate the possibilities of the photographic medium in order to better comprehend visual communication and personal expression. The course will examine topics such as urban landscape, portraiture, night-movement photography and some alternative techniques. Class time will be conducted both inside and on-site and will include field trips, technical demonstrations, visits to museums, darkroom work, photoshop editing, in addition to individual and group critiques. All students must have analog SLR and digital cameras which function in manual mode.

**2. CONTENT INTRODUCTION**

The course is designed to teach the fundamental skills and basic techniques of photo shooting. Special emphasis will be placed upon aesthetic and visual concerns as well as presentation and craftsmanship. The course will base itself on the understanding and operation of the camera, manual exposure, composition, studio lighting and basic image correction through Adobe Photoshop.

In technical terms, the class will be structured primarily on traditional black and white photography and later on digital proficiency. Class time will include slide presentations of work by a wide variety of photographers, both past and present, in order to help clarify project goals and possible approaches as well as to inspire students in their own work.

During class time there will be technical demonstrations, critiques and photo-shooting field trips.

**3. PREREQUISITES**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

All students must have a SLR camera that permits manual adjustment of shutter speeds and apertures. All students are required to purchase photographic paper. It is recommended to bring all lenses, tripods and other equipment that belongs to your camera.

**4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Students completing this course will:

- Have developed technical proficiency in exposing negatives and making prints.
- Develop a greater facility understanding the language of photography.
- Further develop each students' unique personal vision or mode of expression.
- Begin creating a series of photographs (rather than working only on stand alone images).
- Gain exposure to a wide variety of sites, neighborhoods and communities in Florence and Tuscany.

## 5. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

You are expected to have a SLR camera that permits manual adjustment of shutter speeds and apertures. You will also be required to purchase your own b/w film and paper for the class. You will shoot a minimum of 6-8 and likely up to 10 rolls of 36 exposure film. Please purchase the minimum film required:

- 2-3 B/W rolls of Kodak Tri-X 400 ISO
- 2-3 B/W rolls of Ilford 100 ISO
- 1 B/W roll of Kodak T-Max 3200 ISO
- 1 B/W roll of Ilford 50 ISO

Purchase one box of 50 sheets of 24x30 cm./9 x 12" black and white paper (ILFORD Multigrade RC IV, pearl, glossy or silk surface).

Purchase 1 transparent negative sleeve per film you will process.

Purchase a large folder or envelope for turning in photo projects.

Purchase a towel (used for the darkroom and developing film).

Purchase an apron (I suggest not wearing "good clothing" on the days that you will be working in the darkroom or developing film).

For safety reasons, all students must wear an apron and gloves when developing film. Students must be equipped with matting cardboard for final portfolio presentation (this would be announced).

### Photo Stores and Labs:

All photographic supplies can be purchased at:

- **BONGI** ,Via Por Santa Maria, 82-red.

Tel. 055. 239.88.11. Closed on Monday mornings. Open from 9 am to 7 pm.

- **Fontani** ,Viale F. Strozzi 18 red.

Tel. 055.47.09.81. Open from 8:30 am to 1 pm and then 2:30 - 7:30 pm, Mo-Sat.

## 6. GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Grades will be given based on the quality and in some cases the quantity of prints ready for a critique. Quality is defined by technical proficiency (good, clean prints presented professionally) as well as by aesthetic and conceptual strengths evident in the work.

Other factors to be considered for grading:

- Experimentation: signs a student is taking risks, trying new approaches.
- Commitment to and participation in class discussions. Student involvement in critiques is essential. The more considered and sensitive responses a student gives and receives, the more he or she will benefit.

General Breakdown of Grading:

- 30% Photo assignments
- 25% Mid-term exam and quizzes
- 30% Final project
- 15% Class participation

The following **grading system** will be observed:

- A Excellent 4.0 (grade points awarded) 95% percentage of 100%
- A- 3.7, (90% to 94%)
- B+ 3.3 (87% to 89%)
- B Above Average 3.0 (83% to 86%)
- B- 2.7 (80% to 82%)
- C+ 2.3 (77% to 80%)
- C Average 2.0 (73% to 76%)
- C- 1.7(70% to 72%)

D	Below Average 1.0 (60% to 69%)
F	Failure 0.0 (59% and below)
W	Withdrawal 0.0

**Assignments:** The projects are meant to be starting points from which students can develop their own personal vision. Notice that from a set of photographs captured you will not be able to use all the images, progressively you will be expected to select your best shots. The images you photograph are going to be used as a sketchbook for your visual education. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day scheduled for the critique. Failing to shoot the required amount of images adversely affect your overall grade (even if you hand in the required number of prints).

### Project

The course culminates with the student presenting a final portfolio with 6 to 8 printed and well presented images. Important attention will be given to the images as part of a photographic series, rather than as just stand-alone images.

## **7. PLAGIARISM AND COPYING**

SRISA severally condemns ignorant plagiarism and copying during examinations. Any student that makes use of words or ideas taken from another person's work without properly citing credit for the specific purpose of deceiving their professor will receive an automatic "F" on that assignment or exam. Should the offense be repeated, the student will receive an automatic "F" in the class. Students utilizing the strategy of appropriation in a work of visual art for political, religious or social reasons may do so. It is fundamental that students pursuing strategies of appropriation understand that in the United States *fair use* allows them to copy copyrighted material for a limited and "transformative" purpose. Given the complicated nature of how artists utilize appropriation in the 21st century, SRISA students are required to discuss ideas regarding fair use and copied imagery with their professors before turning in their assignment.

## **8. CRITIQUES**

Critiques are friendly group discussion of each student's course work. They allow you to see your own work through the eyes of your peers and instructor, and also encourage you to develop critical insights about your work and the work of others.

## **9. ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR POLICY**

Students are required to attend all classes. If you miss class without an excused absence your grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each unexcused absence. If you are ill you should obtain a doctor's note in order to receive an excused absence. Missing more than four classes will result in an "F" on your transcript.

- Excused absences require a doctor's note or a written note from the Director.
- Tardiness: After 20 minutes into class time, students are considered absent.
- Students who leave 20 minutes before class time ends will be considered absent.
- Arriving in class unprepared to work is considered an unexcused absence.
- The use of cellular phones is prohibited during class time.
- The use of cell phones and iPods is prohibited in the darkroom at all times.
- Using your laptop or the computers in the lab is prohibited during class-time, unless it relates to a photography assignment.
- Students are expected to participate in class, act responsibly, and behave properly while on the school premises.
- Classrooms are to be left in order and clean.
- Students must take care of equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and/or loss.

## **10. COURSE CALENDAR**

**Day 1:** Introduction to the course. Syllabus review. Questionnaire. Introduction to all the equipment. Show previous students work. Basics of the camera, its parts and their functions. Focusing. Exposure basics. Aperture and speed. Visit to Photo-Lab where purchase materials.

**Day 2:** Correct exposure. **Power point presentation.**  
Light and its qualities. Underexposure and Overexposure. Bracketing. Photography examples. Sensibility (A.S.A/I.S.O characteristics). White balance on SLR Camera.

**Day 3:** Darkroom/chemicals rules and paper developing basics. **Assignment #1: Photograms and Chimigrams**

**Day 4:** Walking-tour: **Assignment #2: Abstract Shapes and Patterns/ Textures** Shooting 36 images. How to develop B/W film.

**Day 5:** Quiz on exposure.  
Lab day: Developing film.

**Day 6:** Demo printing a B/W negative.  
Lab Day: Printing Assignment #2  
Critique Assignment #1.

**Day 7:** Introduction to Filters of Contrast in B/W  
Lab Day: Printing Assignment #2

Composition. Rule of Thirds. Video: Language of Photography

**Day 8:** Introduction to **Assignment #3:**  
**Landscape Photography, Shadows and Composition**

Field-trip Boboli Gardens  
Shooting Assignment #3

**Day 9:** Critique Assignment #2.  
Lab day: Developing and Printing Assignment #3

**Day 10:** Printing Assignment #3  
**Introduction to Mid-Term Project (Assignment #4)**

**Day 11:** Critique Assignment #3.  
Lab Day: Developing Assignment #4 (Mid-Term Project).

**Day 12:** Lab Day: Printing Assignment #4 (Mid-Term Project).

**Day 13:** Lab Day: Printing Assignment #4 (Mid-Term Project).

**Day 14:** **Mid-term Exams.**  
Multiple choice photo Test.  
Critique Mid-Term Project

## **MID-TERM BREAK**

**Day 15:** Review of exam. Mid-Term Grades  
Photoshop toolbar. Resizing.  
Demo Photo editing: basic steps

**Day 16:** Demo Photo editing and Practice: color balance and color correction.

**Day 17: Assignment #5: Portraiture**

Demo: eyes and skin color correction, partial focus and masks in Photoshop.

**Day 18:** MNAF Museum visit

**Day 19:** Photo-editing: working on images Assignment #5.

**Day 20: Assignment #6: Panorama and Collage**

Fieldtrip: Piazzale Michelangelo or Duomo's cupola

**Day 21:** Demo Panorama and Collage.

Photo-editing: working on images Assignment #6.

Critique Assignment #5

**Day 22:** Photo-editing: working on images Assignment #6.

**Day 23: Introduction to Final Project**

Lab day: working on final project

Critique Assignment #6

**Day 24:** Demo on Portfolio Preparation

Portfolio material: visit to Rigacci

Lab day: working on final project

**Day 25:** Lab day: working on final project

**Day 26:** Lab day: working on final project

**Final Portfolio Review**

**Day 27:** Final Critique

**Final Portfolio**

**11. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

SRISA strives to foster an all-inclusive learning environment that best caters to its students' needs. While faculty frequently work one-on-one with students, there are some situations in which special accommodations are required. Should a student have any academic accommodations regarding test taking or otherwise, they must present an official letter from their home University to the SRISA Director within the first week of class stating the accommodations.

**12. DISCLAIMER**

This Syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of any changes.