GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

PHOTPGRAPHY 150 – INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

PHOT 150 Introduction to Photography 3 2 hours lecture: 32-36 hours

4 hours lab: 64-72 hours

64-72 outside-of-class hours for lecture

160-180 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

Introductory course that examines the nature of photography and visual literacy through the personal exploration and making of photographic images with various image-making and various image-processing approaches, including the use of Adobe Photoshop and an analog (film) darkroom. The primary focus of the course will be to engage in photographic practice as a means to respond subjectively as well as objectively to the conceptual and aesthetic experiences of the photographic image as a visual document of creative expression and communication. Historical and contemporary photographic works from the contexts of the family album, art photography, commercial / advertising photography, photography and media, and cyberspace will be examined and critically discussed to further cultivate and refine each students’ visual literacy of the photographic image in society and culture. Any type of lens-based, image-making device including smart phones, digital point-and-shoot cameras, and digital SLR's can be used.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and recall the critical issues and visual strategies of photography and lens-based culture as a visual document of creative expression and communication.

b. Capture photographs of creative expression and communication that demonstrate the purposeful use of the critical issues and visual strategies of photography and lens-based culture.

c. Demonstrate application of photographic tools, materials and processes, including camera controls, image exposure and processing strategies, and photographic printing techniques.

d. Applyproper laboratory practices necessary for making, presenting and discussing photographic images of considered conceptual and aesthetic execution as well as optimum technical quality, craft and professional standards.

e. Describe, interpret and evaluatethe use of photography as a means of effective creative expression and communication of personal vision within the contexts of society and culture.

PHOTOGRAPHY 150 – INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY Page 2

5. Instructional Facilities

a. Access to the Internet.

b. Lecture room, suitable for image projection presentations.

c. Photographic processing, printing, and finishing laboratory.

d. Computer lab with digital imaging input and output devices and imaging software.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

a. Electronic storage media.

b. Image-making device, including digital cameras, camera phones, tablets and current consumer-capture devices.

7. Course Content

a. An introduction to the practice and critical discourse of photography, photographic seeing and lens-based culture as a visual document of creative expression and communication.

b. Historical and contemporary photographic masterworks within the contexts of the family album, art photography, commercial/advertising photography, photography and media, and cyberspace are analyzed in detail to examine the critical discourse of photographic language and visual literacy.

c. Hands-on exploration of camera types and functions, image exposure and controls, image processing and print optimization, photographic print finishing techniques, and critical evaluation of the final photographic print.

d. Utilize visual strategies in understanding the nature of photography’s aesthetic attributes to produce photographs of visual engagement and conceptual meaning.

e. Hands-on laboratory practice with basic cameras, photographic materials and processes in developing technical craftsmanship to produce photographs of creative expression and communication.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lectures.

b. Laboratory demonstrations.

c. Field trips.

d. Individualized instruction.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Daily evaluation of individual student works in the laboratory.

b. Objective written examinations.

c. Subjective / objective written responses of critical issues in relationship to photography and visual literacy.

d. Critique of photographic work of the class.

e. Critique and review of final portfolio of work.

f. Final objective written examination.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Field photography assignments.

Example: *Proof of Existence* - visually investigate the conceptual idea of the role and function of photography as a means of proof of one’s existence.  Shoot digital photographic images that reveal a sense of personal space and existence, processing images in Adobe Photoshop and print inkjet photographic prints.

1. Museum and gallery visits.

Example: *Critical Exhibition Review* - write a critical review of a photographic exhibition, including a description, interpretation and evaluation of the work(s) in the exhibition.

PHOTOGRAPHY 150 – INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY Page 3

10. Outside Class Assignments (continued)

1. Outside work for the final portfolio.

Example: *The Portfolio* – make digital photographic images that reflect focused attention on a students’ individual curiosities and interests through an intentional and purposeful use of photographic vision and sense of technical execution and craftsmanship in preparation of developing a conceptually cohesive portfolio of photographs, processing the images in Adobe Photoshop and printing inkjet photographic prints.

11. Texts

a. Required text(s):

(1) Heiferman, Marvin. *Photography Changes Everything*. 1st edition. New York, NY: Aperture. 2012.

(2) London, Barbara, and John Upton, and Jim Stone. *Photography*. 12th edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson. 2017.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

* 1. Create photographs of creative expression that demonstrate the purposeful use of photography’s aesthetic attributes, including the use of light, compositional organization, photographic description, emphasis and moments of exposure.
  2. Demonstrate application of photographic tools, materials and processes, including camera controls, image exposure and processing.
  3. Demonstrate application of proper laboratory practices for making optimum photographic prints.
  4. Demonstrate application of proper laboratory practices for optimum print finishing and presentation.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 11, 2018