

McDaniel College, Budapest
ART 2210 - Digital Photography
Spring 2019

Professor: Ágnes Éva Molnár

Contact: agnesevamolnar@gmail.com

Availability: shortly before and after class, in addition by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the basics of photographic image making – focusing on digital photography –, as well as with digital image post-production (Photoshop) and current printing methods. Furthermore, the course is designed to foster creativity, to help students explore new and useful tools in lens based technical image creation and to change the way they look at photographs: encourage them to think out of the box.

The course will be assignment based and includes class critiques, with active class involvement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- get students acquainted with the specialities of photography and get to know its genres
- help students to learn to use and understand their digital camera more consciously
- encourage students to explore and practice new areas of photography
- help students to become conscious photo creators

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- students will get familiar with the basic principles and genres of photography
- students will acquire confidence in using their own camera
- students will reach beginner level of Photoshop
- students will open out their notion of photography
- students will strengthen their creativity and develop critical thinking

REQUIRED MATERIALS, EQUIPMENTS

Digital camera, portable drive, printing costs.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- 100 points total (the letter grades will be assigned according to the grading system of McDaniel Budapest)
 - attendance, in-class participation 40 points
 - finished project and weekly assignments 20 points
 - mid-term exam (presentation+practice based task) 20 points
 - final exam (presentation+practice based task) 20 points
- There will be 10 weekly assignments during the semester. Student are required to provide **at least three solutions** per every weekly assignment. From among the weekly assignments one should be selected and should be developed to a 5 photos series (final project). At the end of the semester the 10 weekly assignments and the 5-photo final project should be presented. All

final works will be evaluated based mainly on how much energy one has put into completing them, rather than based on artistic value.

- **STORAGE OF THE IMAGES:** Students are responsible for the storage of their own digital files. At the end of the semester the processed final files are needed to submit, i.e., to be copied to a designated computer of McDaniel College.
- **PRINTING:** During the semester weekly assignments will be demonstrated digitally on the computers of McDaniel College. At mid-term exam assignment 1, 2, 3 should be presented in prints. At the end of the semester a selection of 10 photos will be needed to print out: 5 photos of the final project and 5 photos from among the weekly assignments.

COURSE POLICIES

- As this class is based on practice, student attendance and participation is a basic requirement. Each class builds on the material acquired in the previous class, so it is strongly advised not to miss two consecutive classes, as it would result in a serious drawback. Three certified absences are allowed, however, without any consequences in the final grade – after that, a full letter grade per missed class will be deducted from your final course grade. You are also encouraged to arrive on time as the classes generally start with a presentation on the given topic or a quick practice of the material covered in the previous class.
- No phone calls, texting, emails during class. No food or drink is allowed in the classroom.
- You are expected without question to adhere completely to the McDaniel College Academic Honor Code.
- It is not allowed to use artworks from other artists and present it as your own idea. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited, and will have consequences. Ordinarily, an “F” in the course is the minimum penalty for a first offense.

RECOMMENDED READING

Mary Warner Marien: *Photography: A Cultural History* (3rd Revised edition). 2010, Laurence King (ISBN-13: 9781856696661, ISBN-10:1856696669)

Charlotte Cotton: *The Photograph as Contemporary Art (World of Art)* (2nd Edition). 2009, Thames & Hudson (ISBN-13:9780500204016, ISBN-10: 0500204012)

David Taylor – Tracy Hallet – Paul Lowe – Paul Sanders: *Digital Photography Complete Course*. 2015, DK Publishing (ISBN-13: 9781465436078, ISBN-10: 1465436073)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 - January 28 – February 1	
<p>THEORY Basics of Photography (camera obscura) Clarification of Assignments and the Schedule of the Semester</p>	<p>THEORY Basics of Camera (shutter speed, aperture, sensitivity, white balance)</p>
WEEK 2 - February 4-8	
<p>THEORY Brief History of Photography and Genres of Photography</p>	<p>THEORY Farmer or Hunter? Typology of Photography Vol.1.</p>
WEEK 3 - February 11-15	
<p>THEORY Lenses and usage Vol.1; Portrait ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - portrait</p>	<p>THEORY Lighting ASSIGNMENT 1 Portrait - proper lighting</p>
WEEK 4 - February 18-22	
<p>THEORY Creative Lighting ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - creative lighting</p>	<p>THEORY Pixel; File Formats and Image Processing; Color Depth; Metadata ASSIGNMENT 2 Portrait - out of the box</p>
WEEK 5 - February 25 - March 1	
<p>THEORY Three Movements in Art History ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - art historic portrait</p>	<p>THEORY Resolution, Size, Color (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT 3 Portrait - art historic</p>
WEEK 6 - March 4-8	
<p>THEORY Resolution, Size, Color (Photoshop); Printing Technologies ASSIGNMENT Improve assignments 1, 2, 3</p>	<p>THEORY Working with Effect and Adjustment Layers (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT Improve assignments 1, 2, 3</p>
WEEK 7 - March 11-14	

<p>THEORY Digital Retouching Tools (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT Improve assignments 1, 2, 3</p>	<p>THEORY Preparation for the Exam; Presentation Techniques; Prints should be presented ASSIGNMENT Improve assignments 1, 2, 3</p>
<p>WEEK 8 - March 18-22 MID TERM</p>	
<p>MID TERM EXAM Presentation of 3 retouched portraits in prints PRACTICE BASED TEST - your camera will be needed (camera + lab work)</p>	
<p>WEEK 9 - March 25-29</p>	
<p>THEORY Still Life in Art History and Photography ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - still life</p>	<p>THEORY Farmer or Hunter? Typology of Photography Vol.2; Photographic Genres and the Digital Era ASSIGNMENT 4 Still Life</p>
<p>WEEK 10 - April 1-5</p>	
<p>THEORY Montage in Art History; Layers (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - photo montage; sketch</p>	<p>THEORY Working with Layers (Photoshop) Vol.1 ASSIGNMENT 5 Still Life - montage</p>
<p>WEEK 11 - April 8-12</p>	
<p>THEORY Lenses and usage Vol.2; Building and Space Photography; Perspective</p>	<p>THEORY Lens and Perspective Correction (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT 6 Building and Space</p>
<p>WEEK 12 - April 12 -16 Crossroads trip to Vienna and Prague (Study Abroad students only)</p>	
<p>THEORY In Camera Multiple Exposure ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - multiple exposure</p>	<p>THEORY Multiple Exposure Methods (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT 7 Multiple Exposure of a Person</p>
<p>April 15-22 Easter Holiday – No classes</p>	

WEEK 13 - April 23-26	
<p>THEORY Multiple Exposure - Layers ASSIGNMENT Moodboard - multiple layers</p>	<p>THEORY Working with Layers (Photoshop) Vol.2. ASSIGNMENT 8 Multiple Layers</p>
WEEK 14 - April 29-May 3	
<p>THEORY "Natural" Long Exposure ASSIGNMENT 9 Long Exposure - captured movements (nature)</p>	<p>THEORY Staged Long Exposure ASSIGNMENT 10 Long Exposure - staged and lit</p>
<p>WEEK 15 - May 3-5 Crossroads trip to Eger and Tokaj (Study Abroad students only)</p>	
<p>THEORY Determination of Final Projects ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>	<p>THEORY Handle Photography with other Softwares; Phoneography: Instagram and Facebook ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>
WEEK 16 - May 6-10	
<p>THEORY Finalization of the Project ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>	<p>THEORY Finalization of the Project ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>
May 13-17 FINAL EXAMINATIONS	
<p>PRESENTATION OF THE WORKS: digitally: weekly assignments 15 photos + final project 5 photos printed: weekly assignments 5 photos + final project 5 photos PRACTICE BASED TEST - your camera will be needed (camera work + lab work)</p>	