

McDaniel College, Budapest
ART 2210 - Digital Photography
Fall 2019

Professor: Ágnes Éva Molnár

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 30 points
 - finished project and weekly assignments 30 points
 - mid-term exam (presentation+practice based task) 20 points
 - final exam (presentation+practice based task) 20 points
- There will be 7 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 7 photos series (final project). At the end of the semester the 7 weekly assignments and the 7-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 - September 2-6	
Clarification of Assignments and the Schedule of the Semester THEORY Basics of Photography (camera obscura) Brief History of Photography and Genres of Photography	6th September class will be made up during September THEORY Farmer or Hunter? Typology of Photography Vol.1.
WEEK 2 - September 9-13	
THEORY Basics of the Camera (shutter speed, aperture, sensitivity, white balance) Camera Types and Features (shooting mode, focus, metering) Vol. 1	THEORY Camera Types and Features (shooting mode, focus, metering) Vol. 2 IN-CLASS PRACTICE Basics of the Camera (shutter speed, aperture, sensitivity, white balance)
WEEK 3 - September 16 – 20	
THEORY Lenses and usage Vol.1; Portrait ASSIGNMENT Moodboard #1 - portrait	THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE Lighting ASSIGNMENT #1 Portrait - traditionally lit portrait
WEEK 4 - September 23 – 27 (27-29 Study Tour to western Hungary)	
THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE Creative Lighting ASSIGNMENT Moodboard #2 - creative self-portrait	THEORY Pixel; File Formats and Image Processing; Color Depth; Metadata ASSIGNMENT #2 Creative self-portrait
WEEK 5 - September 30- October 4	
THEORY Three Movements in Art History ASSIGNMENT Moodboard #3 - art historic portrait	THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE File Formats, Resolution, Size, Color (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT #3 Portrait - art historic
WEEK 6 - October 7-11	
THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE	THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE

File Formats, Resolution, Size, Color (Photoshop); Printing Technologies ASSIGNMENT Improve assignments 1, 2, 3	Working with Effect and Adjustment Layers (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT Improve assignments 1, 2, 3
WEEK 7 - October 14-18 MID TERM	
MID TERM EXAM (Thursday, 17th October) Presentation of 3 portraits in prints (1 print / each assignment) PRACTICE BASED TEST - your camera will be needed (camera + lab work)	
WEEK 8 - October 24-25	
THEORY Still Life in Art History and Photography Farmer or Hunter? Typology of Photography Vol.2 ASSIGNMENT Moodboard #4 - still life	THEORY Photographic Genres and the Digital Era IN-CLASS PRACTICE Still Life - Farmer Attitude (Lighting) ASSIGNMENT #4 Still Life Moodboard #5 - photo montage; sketch
WEEK 9 - October 28-31 (no class on Friday, 1st November)	
THEORY Montage in Art History; Layers (Photoshop) Working with Layers (Photoshop) Vol.1 ASSIGNMENT #5 Photo Montage	-----
WEEK 10 - November 4- 8	
THEORY Lenses and usage Vol.2; Building and Space Photography; Perspective Depth of Field (DOF - photo montage) ASSIGNMENT Moodboard #6 - space: building and interior	THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE DOF, lenses: angle of view; Lens and Perspective Correction (Photoshop) ASSIGNMENT #6 Space: Building and Interior
WEEK 11 - November 11- 15	
THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE Long Exposure (examples, practice) ASSIGNMENT Moodboard #7 - Long Exposure Moodboard - FINAL PROJECT DETERMINATION OF THE FINAL PROJECT	THEORY + IN-CLASS PRACTICE Multiple Exposure: in-camera / post-production (Photoshop); Working with Layers (Photoshop) Vol.2. ASSIGNMENT #7 Long OR Multiple Exposure

WEEK 12 - November 18- 22	
<p>THEORY Discussing the Final Project in Detail ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>	<p>THEORY Discussing the Final Project in Detail ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>
<p>WEEK 13 - November 25- 27 Monday-Wednesday November 28-29 Thursday-Friday --- Thanksgiving Recess - No classes</p>	
WEEK 14 - December 2-6	
<p>THEORY Finalization of the Project; Practicing for the Final Exam ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project</p>	<p>THEORY Finalization of the Project; Practicing for the Final Exam ASSIGNMENT Working on the final project SELECTION OF THE FINAL PHOTOS TO PRINT</p>
December 9-13 FINAL EXAMINATIONS	
<p>FINAL EXAM (Thursday, 12th December) SUBMISSION OF THE WORKS: digitally: all weekly assignments (5 assignments x 3 photos + 1 montage) + final project 7 photos printed: 1 photo / weekly assignments (6 photos in total) + final project 7 photos PRACTICE BASED TEST - your camera will be needed (camera work + lab work) ! RIGHT AFTER THE TEST YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED IN INSTALLING THE EXHIBITION !</p>	