PHO 112 Basic Photography I  
MTWR 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2015

Instructor: Jamie Maldonado, Graduate Assistant  
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Optional Textbooks:
Photography – Upton and London, current editions  
Tinytutorials.com –Photoshop Videos (Concentrate on “Before CS4.”)  
www.danburkholder.com/Pages/main_pages/TinyTutorials/photoshopcs2.html  
Lynda.com online software training  
It’s Not about the F-Stop – Jay Maisel  
The Nature of Photographs – Stephen Shore

Course Description: A foundation course using a mixture of lectures, demonstrations, assignments, field trips and critiques, students learn elements of color photography through an investigation of the basic techniques and aesthetics of digital photography, with an emphasis on creative use of DSLR camera controls, RAW file processing, digital imaging software, archiving and an awareness of the critical issues in contemporary photography.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate the following:  
- an understanding of the anatomy of a camera, light meter and accessories.  
- an understanding of aperture/shutter/ISO relationships & their effect on the photographic image. - how to process RAW files using digital asset management software.  
- editing and archiving of digital files.  
- put into practice the rules of composition and design.  
- how to make color correct inkjet prints by using technical software solutions controlling color, contrast, etc.  
- implementing technical solutions i.e. color correction, contrast, etc.  
- an understanding of the photographic vocabulary and color theory.  
- how to analyze and interpret photographic images through written essay.  
- effectiveness in critiques by participation in critical evaluation regarding their own work and the work of others.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments
This course will consist of a series of photographic assignments and exercises to assist the student in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week students will work on various combinations of shooting and written assignments, participate in critiques of both student and professional works along with discussions, readings, etc.

Grading:
Students will receive a grade that will be determined by performance on critiques, exercises, quizzes, exams, class and lab participation.

Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:
1. Class and Lab Participation – 10%
The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. You should come to lectures and labs with questions from any assigned reading. Note taking during lectures and labs is essential. During critiques you will be expected to express your thoughts and feelings about the photographs being presented. Labs will generally be devoted to learning software and inkjet printing. There may be in class assignments alongside demonstrations. Participation in in-class assignments will be calculated into this grade.

2. Projects - 60%
You will have visual projects that are graded on how well the specific problems have been solved. Each assignment, unless otherwise noted, will be given a numerical grade. In Class Exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

3. Quizzes and Exams – 10%
You will be given periodic quizzes on lectures and demonstrations plus a mid-term and final exam.

4. Final Project - 20%
Students will submit a final project on a topic of their choice. Students will exhibit this work in the photography exhibition at the end of the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will have excess to a Macintosh OS X computer and print lab equipment with all the software needed to complete photographic assignments and exercises. Students will need to provide the following:

- 35 mm DSLR camera, minimum of 12 megapixels Find the instruction manual and read it.  
  Note: There are digital cameras in Check-Out for students to use.
- Memory Cards for cameras i.e. Compact Flash (CF), Secure Digital Card (SD card). Note: Cameras in Check-Out do not come with memory cards.
- Memory Card Reader
- One 500GB external hard drive (two hard drives would be better or DVD to back up files)
- Spiral notebook for taking notes during class & Lab
- 13 X19 inch inkjet paper (optional – some inkjet paper is provided)
COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

1. Interaction with Instructor Statement:
   Please contact me through email or stop by during my office hours. Appointments are encouraged.
   Email: jmaldonado@leomail.tamuc.edu
   Office Hours: Please make an appointment, hours will be announced on first class day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments
A. Due Date: All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Work that is late will have its' grade reduced by one letter grade. All work handed in after critique will be considered late, including partially completed assignments. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of any problems that might make a project late well before the due date. Five minutes before class is not good enough. If the work not turned in a full week after it is due, the student will be given an "F" for that assignment. It is the student's responsibility to turn the work in; I will not ask for it or track you down.

Note: All images must have been shot, processed and printed this semester for this class only.

B. Print Submission: All work must be from files that were produced during this semester. No images from previous classes can be submitted. All photographs will be printed on at least 13" X 19" or 14" X 17" inkjet paper and presented in a professional manner. Work must be handed in at the beginning of the critique designated for that particular assignment to be counted “on time”.

C. Resubmission of Assignments: I encourage everyone to improve upon your work by reshooting your assignments. This should not be seen as a negative experience as school is the ideal environment to learn from your mistakes. Please note that resubmitting work will not guarantee a better grade.

Guidelines for resubmissions:
1. The project must have originally been turned in on time.
   Note: Work handed in late or incomplete may not be resubmitted.
2. Resubmitted assignments will be accepted up to a week after the original due date.
3. The new work must comply with the original project guidelines.
4. Make sure work is labeled with the assignment title and your name.
5. The original work that was submitted initially must be included marked clearly.

Attendance:
Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and lab meetings. Every student will be responsible for all information given during scheduled class and lab times. Note: A total of 4 absences from any class meetings (lecture or lab) could result in a failing grade ("F") for the course or dropped from the class. Excused absences are listed under Class Attendance (A13.02) in the A&M-Commerce Procedures. Verifiable excuses for absences must be turned into the professor in a timely manner.
University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:

1. Class Participation:
The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. You should come to lectures and labs with questions from the assigned reading. Note taking during lectures and labs is essential. During critiques I want to hear your thoughts and feelings about the photographs being presented. Please take advantage of this time and focus on more than your computers and phones!

2. Lab Participation:
Labs will generally be devoted to learning and printing.

3. Assignments and Exercises:
You will have several visual assignments that are graded on how well the specific problems have been solved. Each assignment, unless otherwise noted, will be given a numerical grade. Exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

4. Quizzes and Exams:
You will be given periodic quizzes on the assigned readings, lectures and demonstrations plus a mid-term and final exam.

5. Final Project:
Students will submit a final project that will consist of prints from past assignments and new work.