

PHOTOGRAPHY II Fall 2025
ASTU 2502-501

Professor: Megan DeSoto

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Times: MoWe 2:00PM - 4:50PM

Room: ART 359

Office Hours: M/W 5pm or via zoom by request

INTRODUCTION

In this class the students will continue to build a strong foundation in the technical and aesthetic aspects of color & digital photography through assignments and image presentations of historical and contemporary work, exploration of social, political and technological developments. Students will utilize different techniques, equipment, and approaches in photography while developing a personal style and aesthetic. Discussions and critical writings will be focused on the history and theory of color photography. Further explorations with photographic applications in Adobe Photoshop with emphasis on maximizing image quality.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intermediate course developing student proficiency with photographic materials, techniques, software and digital cameras. Assignments, lectures, demonstrations and critiques advance student understanding of the necessary tools for creative image making and expression using photography. Students will advance technical competencies with DSLR cameras, Adobe Lightroom, and Inkjet printing. Prerequisite(s): ASTU 2250

COURSE CONTENT STATEMENT

Content in the arts can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the College of Visual Arts And Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the college's practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

This is a photography studio art class. It will cover theoretical, conceptual, and aesthetic concerns about fine art photography as well as technical aspects of digital photographic processes. This course requires students to develop their creative, critical, and conceptual ways of thinking. Students will analyze and synthesize concepts, technical skills, and knowledge, resulting in the creation of a portfolio of work.

Outcomes

Objectives

Knowledge: What students should know

Understand the history, current issues, and direction of the artistic discipline

Functional knowledge of photographic history and theory, the relationship of photography to the visual disciplines, and its influence on culture, Including an understanding of the industrial and commercial applications of photographic techniques

Place works in the historical, cultural, and stylistic contexts of the artistic discipline

Use the technology and equipment of the artistic discipline

Knowledge of basic tools, techniques, technologies, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product. This involves materials, equipment, and processes of the discipline, including but not limited to uses of cameras, film, lighting/digital technologies, processing in black and white, and color, printing, and work with non-silver materials

Skills: What students should be able to do

Use the elements and principles of art to create artworks in the artistic discipline

Understanding of visual forms and their aesthetic functions, and basic design principles, with attention to such areas as design, color, and lighting.

Create artwork that demonstrates perceptual acuity, conceptual understanding, and technical skill

Produce photographs demonstrating knowledge of composition, aesthetic principles, and technical skills, including work in experimental and manipulative techniques, candid and contrived imagery, documentary photography, archival processing, and interpretive studies.

Analyze and evaluate works of art in the artistic discipline

Demonstrated ability to analyze and evaluate photographs.

Synthesis: How students will combine knowledge and skill to demonstrate learning

Produce artworks demonstrating technical skill and disciplinary knowledge

Skill in the use of basic tools, techniques, technologies, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product. This involves materials, equipment, and processes of the discipline, including but not limited to uses of cameras, film, lighting/digital technologies, processing in black and white, and color, printing, and work with non-silver materials

Use knowledge of art and disciplinary vocabulary to analyze artworks

Application of the vocabulary of photography and of art and design in order to critique own work and the photographs of others.

Participate in
critiques of own
work and work of
others

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

The course schedule reflects expected class progress in course subject matter and is considered tentative. The course schedule is subject to change in content and scope at the Course Instructor's discretion.

CONTENT OUTLINE & REQUIREMENTS

This is a studio class. It introduces students to digital photography with emphasis on camera functions, composition and basic digital imaging techniques. Photographic history and developments will also be included. You will be expected to plan ahead and work during class time. There will be three critiques, one artist presentation, technical assignments and weekly capture/reflection.

REQUIRED TEXT

There is no required textbook. There will be readings available that we will engage with in the course.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Adobe Lightroom Classic (OR Adobe Bridge and Camera Raw) and Adobe Photoshop will be the

software we use for this class. If you are using a computer on campus in the CVAD computer lab,

you will not need to buy this software. If you are planning on using your laptop for this course, you

will need to buy a student license - this might be a good idea and will give you access to an expansive

range of Adobe software. More information about this can be found on Adobe's website.

Note: Lightroom and Lightroom Classic are NOT the same software. When you buy a student license you get access to both programs. We will use Lightroom Classic.

CAMERA REQUIREMENT

You will need access to a DSLR or Mirrorless camera with full manual control of exposure and focus. There is a wide range of cameras that will meet these requirements, running from introductory level cameras to expensive professional cameras.

NOTE: You may want to use a tripod for a couple of the assignments. You can check one out from

the lab or you might want to buy one.

If you do not own a camera or tripod, and want to check a camera out to use for assignments rather

than buying one, please see

<https://itservices.cvad.unt.edu/service-computerlab.html>

Miscellaneous Required Camera Equipment

In addition to a camera, you will need a charger, battery, and memory card. You will also want a carrying case or camera bag. If you are checking out a UNT camera, it will come with all of these

accessories, although you may want to consider buying your own memory cards.

Hard Drive requirement

You will need a portable external hard drive for this class. It must be mac compatible and a minimum of 1TB (it is fine to format the drive to work on both a Mac and PC. You can use a PC

for all of the course work done outside of the printing lab if you want). It should be powered by the

USB cable, not an AC power cord.

If you need to buy a hard drive, here are some things to consider:

Buy a known brand and read the reviews.

Often, it is not much more expensive to get a significantly larger hard drive.

Once you buy your hard drive, make sure it is formatted to work on a mac before you start to use it

(you can set it up to work on both a Mac and PC by formatting it using ExFAT):

Other Material Requirements

-Paper

Size options 8.5 x 11in or 13 x 19 inch

Brand options Epson or Red River

Epson Ultra Premium Luster photo paper

Approximate cost: 100 sheets of 8.5 x 11

100 sheets of 13 x 19 is \$210

50 sheets of 8.5 x 11 is \$40 ish (so around \$80 for 100 sheets)

or

Red River Ultra pro Satin paper

100 sheets of 13x 19 inch is around \$130

100 sheets of 8.5 x 11 is around \$50

Inkjet Print Storage - you will need an 8.5 x 11 or 13 x 19 inch print storage box or portfolio.
Here

are some portfolio options:

-Cachet Studio Portfolios (Links to an external site.)

-Archival Methods Black Proof Box for (8.5 x 11.0" Prints) (Links to an external site.)

-Itoya ProFolio Magnet Closure Case, 8.5x11" Letter Size, Black

Required Readings, podcasts, videos*

Materials used in the critical analysis assignments will be provided as links on Canvas

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- Color balance cards
- Backup hard drive or cloud service backup
- Speed light, triggers, light stand/s

Telephones and handheld Internet devices **MUST** be **turned off** before class begins. Please treat all your classmates with the same respect and attention you would ask for yourself. Critiques can be difficult at times, but as long as we all trust each other to be mindful and constructive at all times, we can grow tremendously as visual artists. Statements such as "I like or don't like this" are not constructive. We have to be able to share what is working or not working and why. Also, discriminatory or derogatory jokes or remarks towards any person based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and nationality will not be tolerated. You will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. Further discussion of critiques will be addressed in class.

ATTENDANCE

I expect you to attend every class. You are responsible for completing all of the required assignments. I expect all students to participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art. All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.

The only excuse for absence or tardiness is a serious illness. Three absences will be tolerated. More than three absences will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused. More than three absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence (4 or more). You are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In

order to assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using cellular phones, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence

A tardy is considered to be arrival 5 minutes after the beginning of class. Three tardies equal one absence. **Critiques are mandatory**, missing any of the critiques with an unexcused absence will result in a failing grade for that assignment. Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.

Most lectures, demonstrations, and assignments **will occur at the beginning of class** and will not be repeated for those who come in late. If you are late to class, you will need to notify me at the end of the class period to replace an absence with a tardy. Examinations, quizzes, and in-class assignments missed may only be made up with an official doctor's excuse or note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and authorized Absences).

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be technical assignments, one presentation and **three** critiques during the semester.

GRADING

Students will be graded on quantity and quality of work. **Attendance, participation and improvement** will also be factored into your grade. You will be graded in the following categories:

Critiques/Projects (3)	50%
Technical Assignments	15%
Weekly Capture/Research	20%
Presentation/Research	15%

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be short essays about contemporary artist/art during the semester.

GRADING ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments will be graded based on the following:

1. The technical quality of your work: Composition, contrast, exposure, presentation, focus, digital adjustments and treatment of the paper. Superior, professional craftsmanship is required.
2. The aesthetic quality of your work: Concept, execution of idea, composition, formal issues, cohesiveness within a body of work.
3. The intellectual investment within a project. Research, knowledge on subject and ability to conduct a meaningful conversation regarding your ideas and execution.

In this class the letter grades, A through F, will mean what they have traditionally meant:

A (100%-90%) is for excellent work in all areas: serious, creative solutions to assignments, work completed on time, active, engaged class participation, promptness and steady attendance.

B(89%-80%) is good work in all the above areas or a mix of excellent and good.

C (79%-70%) is average work in the above areas, or a mix of good work in some areas, lax in others.

D (69%-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements] represents below average work, or average work in some areas, poor in others.

F (59% or below) is generally failing to participate in the work of the class, or failure to attend the final class or turn in the assignments.

GRADING (EXTRA DETAILS)

The assignments will be graded based on the following:

The technical quality of your work: Composition, contrast, exposure, presentation, focus, digital adjustments and treatment of the paper. Superior, professional craftsmanship is required.

The conceptual and aesthetic quality of your work: Concept, execution of the idea, composition, formal issues, relation of prints to one another.

NOTE: Late work will be graded down one letter grade per weekday. Work turned in later than one week will not be accepted and will receive the grade of F.

PRINTING IN THE LAB

All work must be printed by you in the Photography Lab.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

AI USE POLICY

In this course, students are permitted to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools as part of their creative and academic process. However, all use of AI must be **ethical, transparent, and purposeful**. Students are required to:

- Clearly acknowledge and document any use of AI in the creation, editing, or development of their work (written, visual, or otherwise).
- Ensure that AI is used as a tool for support, enhancement, or exploration—not as a replacement for their own original creative and critical contributions.
- Avoid plagiarism, misrepresentation, or overreliance on AI in ways that compromise artistic integrity, originality, or academic honesty.

Failure to properly disclose AI use will be treated as an academic integrity violation.

ADA ACCOMMODATION

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at <https://disability.unt.edu/>.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas' Office of Risk Management. Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: <https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety>.

Students enrolled in Photo II are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center.

Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there. Here is the link to the Photography area specific health and safety information.

Lighting Studio

The lighting studio is a shared space with its own set of rules. It is most important that you respect the time you have signed up for, especially during the busy hours. It is also important to keep the area clean and orderly. If you take an item from the closet, you want to make sure you return it to the same place. You also want to create a space for yourself to work in that is not cluttered with cords.

- If anything breaks for any reason, please let the lab worker on duty know immediately.
- While the studio is a space that can be used by many people, there are some pieces of lighting equipment reserved for students who are enrolled/completed the Advanced Lighting Techniques. It is always better to ask if you are not sure if you can use a piece of equipment or not.
- All lighting that needs to be plugged in must be plugged into one of the power strips in the studio. Never plug anything but a power strip into the wall.
- When using the C-Stands it is important to understand how heavy the equipment is and you want to make sure you are using sandbags to weight the stand down.
- Make sure you are keeping the cords clear.
- Never mix water and electricity. If you are photographing a liquid, make sure you are careful to keep it away from the equipment.
- When you are changing the light modifiers, be careful of the flash tubes.
- Do not put heavy objects on the cyclorama.
- Do not use the scissor lift.
- Make sure the studio is as clean as it was when you found it.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT Emergency Guide: <http://guidebook.com/app/emergency/guide/unteitmerge...>

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety

emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course management system for contingency plans for covering course materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT & ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. UNT's Student Advocate she can be reached through email at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

COURSE CHANGES

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus with or without notice.

E-MAIL: The UNT email account will be used for general class announcements; it is the student's responsibility to check it regularly. **AS WELL AS CANVAS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

This syllabus will function as a class contract for any further disputes regarding grades, projects and content of the class. It is the responsibility of the student to read and fully understand everything stated in this syllabus.