

Framingham State University

Syllabus

COMM 208 Basic Photography

General Information:

Semester: Summer 2018(May 28th, 2018-June 29th, 2018)

Credit: 4

Teaching Hours: 50 Hours

Time: 2 hours/day, Mon-Fri

Instructor: Matthew Conboy

Home Institution: Framingham State University

Email: matthew@startwithartpgh.org

Course Description: Whether you own a point and shoot or a more advanced DSLR, this class will give you a better grasp of your chosen tool and the skills to make successful images. In this course, we will focus on core photographic concepts as well as some more advanced techniques. The course will include hands on demonstrations with the camera as well as basic digital image editing techniques. We will discuss the work of internationally recognized photographers alongside your own photographs in order to better understand the fundamentals of creating compelling imagery. You should expect to leave this course with a portfolio of images that you are proud of, and a working knowledge of photography in general

Required supplies: A DIGITAL CAMERA is your top priority. It does not matter which kind, though one with full manual exposure controls are preferred. Having the ability to capture RAW imagery is nice but not essential. A TRIPOD is very helpful. There are many options out there but you get what you pay for (in terms of quality) SD or SDHC STORAGE MEDIA is essential for storing your photos in your camera, as well as transferring them to edit in Photoshop. You should also consider purchasing an external USB THUMB DRIVE or external hard drive. Storing your photos on your camera's memory card for extended periods is not wise. Make sure you have a place to save your work every week. Very helpful is access to a COMPUTER with [the latest version] of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge. You can also download a trial copy of Photoshop Elements or Photoshop from Adobe.com.

Policies: This course is designed for your enrichment. Attendance is crucial; because of the nature of the course it will be difficult for you to catch up on the concepts and techniques taught that you may have missed. If you must miss a session, I will be available to you [on a limited basis]. During class, it is important that you voice your questions when you would like for me to go more in depth about a subject, or there is something that you do not understand. We will review and critique student work in every class meeting. Please be respectful of the work and opinions of other students.

CONTENT COVERED

Week 1(5/28-6/1): Camera Controls & Photoshop

Introductions & discussion of your goals for course. Review and explanation of camera parts and types (bring your camera and the Owner's Manual to class). Navigating menu items and shooting modes (Auto vs. Scene vs. Priority). Introduction to basics of Photoshop covering ingestion, editing, fixing blemishes.

Assignment 1: Photograph a subject of interest to you using different shooting modes to see how that effects your images. Bring 10 images to next class on external media (flash or hard drive).

Week 2(6/4-6/8): Intro to Lighting & Exposure Control, Black and White Conversion

Review & Critique of student work. Image show and tell presentation of influential black and white photographers. Basic lighting, examine concepts of high and low-key studio lighting. Black & White conversion practices, exposure compensation. Continue introduction to basics of Photoshop covering color correcting and selective edits.

If you have a tripod, bring it for next class.

Assignment 2: Continue to practice exposure compensation with your camera. Bring 10 high and low-key images to share on external media (flash or hard drive).

Week 3(6/11-6/15): The Portrait and Shooting at Night

Review & Critique of student work. Image show and tell presentation of photographers who primarily work in portraiture, as well as, presentation on composition tips and 'seeing' exercises. Discussion of portrait genres and lighting techniques (studio, natural). Review aperture, shutter speed, ISO. Continue introduction to basics of Photoshop covering editing and cropping. Shoot outside during class time in groups.

Assignment 3: Practice shooting portraits under different lighting techniques. Find a subject of your choice and, using your tripod, spend time working the subject. Practice rules of composition & seeing exercises. Bring 10 portraits, 5 self-portraits, 5 portraits you are proud of (at least 2 in black and white) for next week.

Week 4(6/18-6/22): Photography and Contemporary Art

Review & Critique of student work. Image show and tell presentation on Photography as Contemporary Art. Discussion about conceptual practices. Image show and tell presentation and discussion on how to create a portfolio of a successful body of work. Brainstorm ideas for Assignment 5 and begin working/ planning in class options for final show/output of student work.

Assignment 5: Shoot 10 images that are conceptually driven, based on your own interests or inspired by the lecture.

Week 5(6/25-6/29): Creating a Body of Work

Review & Critique of student work. Work in class to ready images for final output from Photoshop; sequence editing, color space conversion, printing. Mount/present final student work in Final Show.