GDES 2361-002 | DESIGN PROCESS: PHOTOGRAPHY
Spring 2018 Class Syllabus

3 credits

CLASS TIME: Fridays, 8:30 am - 12:35 pm | McNeal 336
INSTRUCTOR: Alison Malone | amalone@umn.edu
OFFICE HOURS: After class & by appointment | McNeal 346
COURSE WEBSITE: Access the Moodle site via: http://myu.umn.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course you will acquire knowledge of the technical and conceptual aspects of photography as they relate to design and visual communication. This course emphasizes hands-on practice along with discussions and group critiques to expand your creative potential and develop a personal photographic style that responds effectively to design problems. We will experiment with a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches to photography, along with core photographic concepts and basic digital image editing techniques.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
At the end of this course, students will:
• Demonstrate technical skills in photographic image making and basic digital post-processing.
• Demonstrate strong conceptual development and apply design principles to photography.
• Understand the relevance of photography in visual communication and its cultural implications.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
All students must provide:
• Their own digital SLR camera (any make and model) with manual controls
• At least one lens (prime or zoom)
• Memory card and SD card reader

A list of resources and options to purchase a camera is available in Moodle. Additionally, we’ll have a conversation about equipment on the first day of class.
All students are required to have all required materials by the second week of class.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS
• Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 6 will be our main post-processing software. All CDES computers are equipped with it. You may also use Lightroom CC and load current version or the Legacy Version.
• Although a tripod is not required, it is strongly recommended.
• A secondary storage device that is dedicated solely to photography projects is strongly recommended. This ideally is USB 3.0 external drive but can be USB jump key.
READINGS
The average reading load for this class is of two chapters/articles per week. Written responses are required for most readings and are noted in the class schedule. All students are required to come prepared to class to discuss and comment on the readings. Selected readings from texts below will be assigned and provided in class throughout the semester:
- London and Upton: Anatomy of a Camera
- Barrett: Criticizing Photographs “An Introduction to Understanding Images”
- Classic Essays on Photography by various authors including: John Szarkowski, Minor White, Henri Cartier Bresson, Irving Penn, Larry Sultan, Susan Meiselas, Charlotte Cotton, and more.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Can identify, define and solve problems
- Through the exploration of photographic media, students will develop a body of work that reflects a wide range of problem solving and ideation techniques.
Can locate and critically evaluate information
- Students will exercise their critical thinking through the analysis and interpretation of photographs as an important component of visual communication.
Have mastered a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry
- Students will develop a foundation of art, design theories, & photographic technologies through which ideas and concepts will be visually communicated.
Understand diverse philosophies and cultures within and across societies
- Students will learn the role of photography as an important component of visual communication and understand its relevance in a globalized, diverse society.
Can communicate effectively
- Students will understand and apply photographic and design principles to visual assignments.
Understand the role of creativity, innovation, discovery, and expression across disciplines
- The course will encourage the creative and systematic investigation of formal and conceptual issues as they relate to art and design.

CLASS FORMAT
- Class lectures, discussions, and group critiques.
- Throughout the course (weather permitting) we will go on field trips to experience different lighting situations & subject natures. Arrangements for each trip will be discussed in advance.
- Readings, class handouts and other class material will be available in Moodle. All digital files, written responses and other assignments should be uploaded to Moodle.
Note: Assignments turned in via email will not be accepted.

EXPECTATIONS & WORKLOAD POLICY
- You are expected to complete all assignments and readings, participate in discussions, provide thoughtful critiques and show weekly progress on assignments in class.
- Some class time will be devoted to working on various projects, plus an average of 6-8 hours per week of work time outside of class.
- Photos for bi-weekly projects will need to be shot outside of class time and files should be brought to class weekly for review, refinement and proofing.
GRADING STRUCTURE
Your ability to grow in the medium, try new ideas and communicate through your images will contribute to your grade. All work will be evaluated according to the course objectives and University-identified student learning outcomes. Performance will be measured using a point system with a total of 200 points possible for this class.

There will be six projects assigned; participation, attendance and weekly challenges (in-class exercises) will make up the remaining points. There will be no final exam. Please note that projects may change if necessary.
80% Visual projects
Project 1: The Photographers Eye (20 points)
Project 2: Light & Color as subject (20 points)
Project 3: Portrait/ Self-Portrait (30 points)
Project 4: Cultural Narrative- documentary 101 (40 points)
Project 5: Pictures in a sequence- Narratives expanded (50 points)

In-Class Project : Objects & Emotions- product photography (pass/fail)

10% Written responses & presentations (20 points)
10% Participation, critiques, discussion & attendance (20 points)
(Total out of 200 points possible)

Projects will be evaluated on:
• Conceptual Development (evidence of thought, refinement of ideas & soundness of concept).
• Creativity (inventive, imaginative, experimental & unique approach).
• Execution (quality of craftsmanship, attention to detail, presentation & overall cleanliness).
• Assignment objectives (whether the specific goals for the assignment were met or exceeded with a personal & compelling interpretation).

UNIVERSITY GRADING STANDARDS
Grades will be assigned in accordance with University definitions; plus or minus indicate performance relative to the letter grade definition.
A = Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements
B = Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements
C = Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect
D = Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements
F = Fails to meet course requirements
University Uniform Grading Policy:
http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html
LATE-MAKEUP WORK POLICY
Late assignments will be docked half a point per day up to a maximum of a week. Assignments late due to an excused, legitimate absence need to be completed within one week of the original date for full credit. All legitimate absences need to be properly documented (i.e. medical note). No late assignments will be accepted after the final class meeting, which includes no late final projects. Any assignment turned in after the end of class on the final day will be recorded as a zero and calculated into the students overall grade for the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
• Absences and early-leave requests must be notified to the instructor a minimum of 24 hours in advance and are subject to instructor approval.
• More than one unexcused absence will lower one full letter grade (i.e. A to B).
• All excused absences require valid documentation and will be at the discretion of the instructor.
• Late arrivals of 15 minutes or more will result in an absence.
• Field trips are considered class time; not attending to a field trip is equivalent to an absence.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS & EXTRA CREDIT
• The instructor reserves a 48 hour period to respond to email inquiries during the M-F week. Any email submitted after 3pm Friday will be answered the following Monday evening.
• Students are responsible for all class meetings and information on the syllabus.
• Students are responsible for meeting all course requirements and deadlines.
• Students are responsible for seeking help when needed.
• All students are expected to arrive on time and stay until dismissed at the end of class.
• Students are not permitted to submit extra work in an attempt to raise their grade.

RELEASE OF STUDENT WORK
Students understand that enrollment in this course grants consent for their work to be selected for inclusion in college or departmental publications (online or in print). Your instructor may select to use your work to represent her/his skills as an instructor in a teaching portfolio (online or in print).

ADDITIONAL POLICIES
Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom
Please silence your phones and all other electronic devices before coming to class and refrain from using them during class time.
http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.html

Use of Class Notes and Materials
Lectures given in this class are the property of the instructor. They may not be recorded without prior permission from the instructor. They may not be used for any commercial purpose. This includes the sale of notes to a retail distributor who reproduces them for resale to other students. Students found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline under University policies. http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/STUDENTRESP.htm
Statement on Climate of Inclusivity
You are expected to be attentive during class, ask questions if you do not understand something, and to offer your opinion. You are also expected to listen respectfully to other students and to me when speaking. The University of Minnesota is committed to providing a safe climate for all students, faculty, and staff. I will happily honor your request at any point to address you by your correct name, gender pronoun, or any other manner you would like to be referred. If you like, I will also instruct class members to do the same. Please advise me of how you would like to be referred to in class. All persons shall have equal access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in this class. Reports of harassment are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf

Availability of Disability and Mental Health Services
If you have any special classroom requirements please contact one of the offices listed below. They will work with you and, if necessary, they will contact the instructor to work out the details for necessary accommodations.

- Student Academic Success Service
  340 Appleby Hall, Minneapolis
  612-624-3323

- Counseling & Consulting Services:
  199 Coffey Hall, St. Paul
  612-624-3323

- Disability Services:
  180 McNamara, Minneapolis
  612-626-1333

- Center for Writing:
  10 Nicholson Hall, Minneapolis
  612-626-7579

Scholastic Dishonesty and Conduct Code:

Sexual Harassment:
http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf

Academic Freedom and Responsibility: