

Course Title: Digital Imaging
Course Code: DIGT 211
Credit Hours: 3

Location: Photo classroom, Photo lab building
Instructor: Maria Drakaki or Michael McCarthy
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Office Hour: by appointment
Office location: by appointment

Syllabus

Course Description:

This class is intended as an introduction to digital imaging techniques, but aims as well to move forward students who have some acquaintance with artistic digital photography. Exposure to new technology and equipment including digital photography and digital manipulations, Photoshop basics are covered. This course provides a background for contemporary thought about digital images particularly within the Greek pantheon of photography, and photography in general, and questions how digital technology might alter perception in terms of simultaneity, continuity, speed of attention, and ideas of truth.

Course details:

Students will start with various aspects of digital photography - how digital cameras work, how to take good pictures using them, and how to manipulate these pictures afterwards. Students will also learn new techniques that advance their expressive range and capabilities. It includes a survey of current artists working with digital technologies, including visits to galleries and studios on Paros, if it may be possible. Photo excursions will be held that help students become acquainted with unique cultural and natural conditions for shooting photographs on Paros. A discussion of photographic practices in terms of conceptual questions of documentation, reproduction, what is "live", self-expression, and theories of objectivity. The current parameters of digital practice will be questioned and students will examine its potential integration into other media.

Course Objectives:

- *The course will teach students the compositional elements in photography and imaging.
- *The course will teach students all camera functions and imaging editing software such as Photoshop.
- *The course will teach students the historical and theoretical context for digital imaging.

*The course will teach students how to analyze and critique images produced by others and how to explain and defend their own images.

*The course will teach students how to exhibit and archive their images.

*the course will teach students technological similarity and difference in traditional film photography and digital imaging.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate ability to employ compositional elements in photography and imaging including a center of interest, leading lines, the rule of thirds, symmetry, view points, framing, cropping, etc., and employ them in their own work.
- Possess demonstrable technical literacy with the manual functions on digital cameras including F-stops, depth of field, ISO, bracketing, etc., and know how to use digital editing software such as Photoshop to improve the appearance of images and to realize creative images.
- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the historical and theoretical context for digital imaging as documentation, creative photography, photo manipulation, digital art, and digital video.
- Have demonstrated ability to critically analyze the work of their peers using an effective photographic vocabulary and be able to explain and defend intentions in their own images to an audience.
- Have demonstrated the ability to organize, prepare, and mount a public exhibition of their images as part of a team.
- Relate classic film photography issues to modern digital imaging techniques.

Course Structure:

Students will shoot and manipulate photographs in the digital lab outside of class time in preparation for the regularly scheduled group critiques and workshops. Student work will be discussed in regular critiques, and lectures are framed around the aesthetic concerns that the work provokes. Individual teacher-student meetings and a final group critique at the end of the semester will be held in conjunction with the student exhibition at the HISA Art Gallery.

First, we will move quickly through a review of the basics of digital photography and camera control, and build on this knowledge through its application in students' work. Once we have familiarized ourselves with the technology available--the camera, scanner, photo-editing software and, in some cases, other vector graphic editors--we will be free to play rigorously with the 2D visual world. Students should be prepared to shoot a lot of photographs and/or manipulate images based on assignments exposing students to the Greek landscape, both physical and social. During the last weeks, the student will focus on the individual project or photo portfolio in looking towards the exhibition. The final week will be dedicated to in-depth

critiques and exhibition preparation, including exploring the presentation ideas and creation of an artist statement.

Assignments will include throughout semester:

- Technical exercise; exposure, lighting, speed, depth of field, ISO, bracketing, composition, etc.
- Portraits and landscapes in a manipulated world (Adobe Photoshop)
- Collage and multiple realities

Independent Projects: Students interested in developing an independent project throughout the course of the semester should meet with the instructor as soon as possible to discuss options, ideas, and deadlines.

Evaluation:

Students are expected to participate in studio and other class sessions on a regular basis, as well as participate in excursions, etc. Students are evaluated in accordance with the effort put forth during the semester based on their relative skill entering the class as well as the quality of the final output of creative work.

Grading:

Students are graded based on their performance relative to knowledge, ability, and skills at the beginning of the course, and the growth apparent in their work by the end. Students will not be graded against each other, although all will be expected to participate in a rigorous critique of their work. Letter grades will be calculated based on:

Assignments: 40%

Final projects/photo/portfolio; exhibition submission: 30%

Class Participation, Critique and Attendance: 30%

Attendance and Make-up, Late Assignment, Grading Scale, Academic Integrity and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policies

Students are required to abide by HISA's Academic policies first introduced and explained at the school and class orientation. The sheet is also attached here.

Reference Materials:

Martin Evening, *Adobe Photoshop CS6 for Photographers*

Schilt Publishing, *World Press Photo 2017-2018*

Harry Callahan, *New Color (New Mexico)*

Victor Burgin, *Looking at Photographs*, (1982)

Stratos Kalafatis, *Archipelago*

Susan Sontag, *On Photograph*

Alain De Botton *The Art of Travel*, Pantheon

Videos & photographs by: Yannis Behrakis, Garry Winogrand, Natsumi Hayashi, Nikos Economopoulos, Harry Callahan, Kostas Balafas, Enri Canaj, Christian Stemper, Sim Chi Yin, Bieke Depoorter, Newsha Tavakolian