

Western University
Department of Visual Arts
VAS2246A - Digital Photography

Term/Session: Fall 2018
 Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 - 5:30pm
 Location: VAC 134/135
 Professor: Colin Carney ccarney@uwo.ca
 Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:00pm - Rm 241B

Course Description

This is an introductory course examining a variety of technical and artistic approaches to digital photography in the context of contemporary artistic practice. This course will offer students a technical foundation for using DSLR cameras as well as for using Adobe Photoshop. Students will learn about output preparation, print production and archival maintenance. A combination of demonstrations, in-class exercises, thematic lectures and slideshows will introduce students to the relationship between technical skill and critical thinking in contemporary photography. This class will be an opportunity for students to experiment and discover ways to express themselves in digital photography. It will also be a class concerned with various theoretical discourses which inform artistic practices in digital photography. Students will be making thoughtful work which responds to these considerations in 4 major projects over the term.

Note: Through this course, students will be exposed to a very broad range of photographic art. Some of the most canonical or universally esteemed works depict what is commonly called 'mature subject matter.' Be forewarned that a small percentage of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

Learning Outcomes

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Students will acquire the range of skills required to engage in the material practice being studied, and will have a thorough understanding of the genesis of those skills historically

Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will gain an understanding of the critical potential of the medium, be able to identify various ways works in that medium operate critically, and will apply their understanding, in creative ways, to the realization of their projects

Application of Knowledge

Students will use their capacities with the medium as a critical, discursive and expressive tool to develop creative works; understand the potential viability of their works, and will utilize their reflections on their works to explore and develop further projects

Materials:

- A small-format, digital, single-lens reflex camera (D-SLR) is **required** for this course
- A memory stick or external hard drive (preferred) , for the storage and transfer of larger digital files.
- A USB card-reader may be useful for transferring images from the camera's memory card to lab computers, especially if your DSLR uses a proprietary memory card (eg. Sony, Olympus).
- Students should expect to produce their own digital files and prints, and, buy their own paper.

Evaluation Breakdown:

20% In-Class Exercises

15% Project 1

15% Project 2

20% Project 3

20% Project 4

10% Attendance & Participation