



Kia LaBeija, Aurora

Intro to Digital Photography

ART 475 G

Monday and Wednesday

9:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Center for Art and Design, Room 210

Fort Hays State University

Spring 2022

Instructor:

Nick Simko

Assistant Professor, Photography

Room 222

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:30

Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 – 9:00

appointments by request

ncsimko@fhsu.edu

Course Description

This course is an intensive exploration of the medium of digital photography. Students will be introduced to camera functions, digital editing, and fine art printing. They will also learn how to think conceptually and to create photographs as works of art. Through weekly assignments, lectures, demonstrations, and critiques, students will cultivate a variety of new tools for creative exploration and expression in the medium. Students will also consider the rich and complex history of photography as well as a range of contemporary photographic practices. The course culminates in a self-directed final project that will require each student to use their technical knowledge to create a cohesive group of printed photographic images.

Class time will be a combination of technical demonstrations, lab time, class critiques, in-class discussions, and slide presentations. Students are expected to participate in every class session, and to devote a considerable amount of time outside of class to making their photographic work. This class is time-intensive, and will require each student's consistent engagement and self-directed problem-solving. Critiques are an integral part of this course, where students will share their work and ideas with each other in a thought-provoking and constructive environment.

This course requires each student to have a digital camera that can shoot at least 18 megapixels (MP). It is highly recommended that students have a personal laptop or desktop computer as well as an Adobe Creative Cloud subscription, specifically one with access to Adobe Lightroom Classic (a.k.a "LRC"). Please note that Chromebooks cannot accommodate Lightroom. This course does not include darkroom instruction.

Course Goals

- Gain fluency with manual digital camera function and inkjet printing technology
- Cultivate an awareness of historic and contemporary issues in fine art photographic practice
- Develop the ability to critically analyze and discuss photographic images

Projects

Students will turn in 5 projects over the course of the semester. Each project is designed to help students gain familiarity with the overall practice of photography both as a technical medium and as a conceptual way of creating art. These projects make up the majority of each student's grade.

Each project will conclude with an in-class critique. Part of learning to make good photographic images

requires an understanding of the diverse ways in which people see images and the underlying histories that viewers bring to looking at works of art. This process can only be carried out through discussion. Attendance and participation in critiques is required, no exceptions. Failure to attend critique results in a zero for that project. In addition, projects lose one letter grade for each day they are late.

Project Schedule

There will be a number of assignments designed to help students with the thematic projects. The majority of

Unit	Dates	Projects	Themes	Skills
1	Jan. 18–27	Sound into Vision Crit Date: Jan. 27	Abstraction as a visual language	DLSR/Smartphone basics, manual mode, exposure, RAW, ISO, shutter speed aperture/depth of field, focal length, reciprocity, color temperature, composition Lightroom basics, contact sheets, exporting
2	Feb. 1–15	Narrative Crit Date: Feb. 15	Visual storytelling	Lightroom editing, color correction, image sequencing, cropping, selective edits, hue, saturation, luminance, black and white presets
3	Feb. 17 – Mar. 3	Portraiture Crit Date: Mar. 3	Collaborative image-making	Lighting, working with available light, shooting indoors, interviewing subjects
4	Mar. 8 – Apr. 5	Landscape Crit Date: Apr. 5	Notions of place, space, and time	Outdoor lighting, HDR, panorama
5	Apr. 7 – May 5	Final Crit Date: May 5	Self-directed	Synthesis of skills for self-directed final project

assignments are to be completed in-class. Exercises, on the other hand, are intended to enhance each student's grasp of the technical aspects of photography. The completion and submission of both assignments and exercises is required.

Evaluation

All thematic projects are graded on evidence of skill development in the areas listed below.

Students can expect full points according to the following criteria:

Works-in-progress	Student seeks the insight of their peers and the instructor, experiments with multiple ideas, submits contact sheets on time, participates in required meetings with instructor
Conceptual	Outstanding commitment to developing ideas, original and creative problem-solving, clear visual demonstration of ideas expressed from abstract vision to photographic image
Formal	Excellent execution overall, in-camera choices appropriate, digital editing perfected, carefully formulated compositions
Print Quality	Inkjet prints are high-quality and error-free, prints are installed in a manner that is intentional
Participation	Student has thoughtful, constructive feedback to offer to classmates in critique while also making space for the opinions of others

Work that possesses several of the above qualities, but not all of them, will not receive full points.

Above all, each student's success in this course will be determined by their individual willingness to explore the many facets of photographic image-making paired with satisfactory progress towards mastery of digital imaging technologies. In other words, students will be evaluated on their personal commitment to making photographs that are exciting and meaningful to them AND their understanding of how the camera and related equipment/software operates. For more details, please review the "Thematic Project Rubric" at the end of the syllabus.

Grading

- A** outstanding commitment to developing ideas, original and creative problem-solving, clear evidence of risk-taking, excellent technical execution overall
- B** work that possesses several of the above qualities, but not all of them
- C** assignment completed according to expectations, doing what is asked, minimal risk-taking, technique not entirely refined
- D** less-than-satisfactory completion of expectations, minimal results, late, or incomplete
- F** failure to complete work according to minimum expectations

Late Work

This is a college-level course and all work should be completed and turned in on time. For every day that a project is late, students will lose a full letter grade for that project. Projects will not be accepted after three days of being late. When a project is submitted after the deadline, the student must also make the instructor aware that it has been submitted to Google Drive via e-mail in order for it to be graded.

If a student misses a critique, that student will receive a zero for that project.

Grade Breakdown

Assessment areas	Possible points
Unit 1 Project – Sound into Vision	12
Unit 2 Project – Narrative	12
Unit 3 Project – Portraiture	12
Unit 4 Project – Landscape	12
Unit 5 Project – Final	16
Projects Total	64 / 100 points
Exposure Basics & Composition Assignment (2 pts. ea.)	4
Recreation Assignment	4
Collaborative Portraiture Assignment	4
HDR & Panorama Assignment (2 pts. ea.)	4
Artist Research (4 presentations total, 2 pts. ea.)	8
Assignments Total	24 / 100 points
Participation - Attendance	4
Participation - Engagement	4
Participation - Respect	4
Participation Total	12 / 100 points
Points Total	100 / 100 points

Course Content and Communications

Course content will be posted on Blackboard. The primary method of communication for this class is via Blackboard Announcement, which is sent through FHSU e-mail. It is essential that students check their FHSU e-mail on a daily basis to receive important information about assignments, scheduling, and all other updates about the class. Failure to do so will adversely affect student performance in this class and ultimately student grades.

Expectations and Academic Dishonesty

The work presented in class MUST be made by the student from initial idea to final finished product. Any work made by anyone other than the student will NOT be accepted; nor will work that was made prior to this class; nor will work that is/was made for another class. If students have questions about academic honesty in relation to this course, please ask the instructor. Turning in someone else's work will result in an automatic failure of the course (a letter grade of "F" with academic dishonesty). Intro to Digital Photography, like all studio and

academic classes, demands a commitment of time in order to perform successfully. Students are encouraged to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at: https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/

Attendance

Attendance is absolutely mandatory on all days and for the entire duration of class time.

A student's grade will be adversely affected by absences, lateness, or premature exit from class. More than three (3) absences will result in the lowering of a grade by a full letter grade. Being late to class or leaving early three (3) times is equal to one (1) absence. Students should not let attendance ruin their grade. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained all of the material they missed for any absence. If a student is aware that they will be absent ahead of time, they must notify the professor in writing (i.e. via e-mail) as soon as possible. All work, including in-class assignments, must be done in advance in order to get full points.

Participation Rubric

(12 points total, cumulative throughout the semester and different from the participation grade in critique)

	No points 0 points	Half points 2 points	Full points 4 points
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student does not attend class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student is sometimes absent without explanation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student is present for practically every class
Participates in group conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student does not participate in group conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student sometimes participates in group conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student actively participates in group conversations
Respects and makes space for the opinions of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student does not respect nor make space for the opinion of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student sometimes respects and makes space for the opinion of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student respects and makes space for the opinion of others

Excused Absences

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A STUDENT COME TO CLASS IF THEY HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 or any other serious illness. If a student is not feeling well, they are strongly encouraged to seek medical attention in a timely manner. In the event that a student has serious illness such as CoVid-19, they should contact the Office of Student Affairs in order to take next steps while also informing the instructor. Above all, students should NEVER come to class if they are feeling ill or have been directly exposed to someone with CoVid-19.

CoVid-19 Safety Precautions

Students are required to wear face coverings in this class for the entire duration of class time until further notice.

While the University is not mandating face coverings in general at this time, the University does recommend and support the wearing of face coverings in alignment with current public health guidance. Additionally, the University's policy on face coverings does allow for some local-decision making by instructors and event organizers. Students in this course are required to wear face coverings while in the classroom. This rule is subject to change, at the discretion of the instructor or as otherwise announced by the University.

While instructors and event organizers will attempt to resolve matters at the local level first, violations of this policy will be handled through the Student Code of Conduct process. Individuals may utilize the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Concern Reporting form](#) for this purpose.

Cell Phones and Technology

As a matter of courtesy, please turn off all phones and other devices prior to the beginning of class. If students are using their phones for any reason (which includes text messaging or using TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, etc.) I will issue one (1) warning after which time I will count every instance of use as a late to class / early departure. That being said, three (3) instances of in-class engagement with non-related devices or applications (or any combination of the two) will result in one (1) absence.

Breaks and Rest

It is important for students to rest. If students do not take the time to rest, they cannot fully engage with the course material in a meaningful way. That said, all students should have designated times during the day to take a break. They should also have a routine of regular sleeping hours, as well as restricting the use of portable electronics such as cellphones and laptops for several hours before bedtime. For more resources on how to cultivate a better work-life balance as a student, please contact Health & Wellness Services at FHSU, 785-628-4401.

ADA

FHSU is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These and other federal, state and local laws prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities. Under the ADA, "disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity of an individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. A substantial impairment is one that significantly limits or restricts a major life activity such as hearing, seeing, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, walking, or caring for oneself. For information pertaining to services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities, contact the Human Resource Office, Sheridan Hall Room 110, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601, (785) 628-4462.

Students can also visit the following page for more information:

<https://fhsu.edu/president/Compliance-Office/Americans-with-Disabilities-Act/index.html>

Harassment

It is expected that all students enrolled in this course will abide by the terms and conditions of student conduct and academic honesty as cited in the FHSU campus-wide policy. FHSU is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty, administrative, and academic staff can learn and work together in an atmosphere that enhances productivity and draws on the diversity of its members; an atmosphere free from all forms of disrespectful conduct, harassment, exploitation or intimidation, including sexual. No form of harassment will be tolerated in this class.

Title IX

FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Amy Schaffer, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at alschaffer@fhsu.edu or 785-628-4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of student reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.fhsu.edu/judicial/gender-based-violence-misconduct-policy/>

FHSU community members can also speak *confidentially* with a Fort Hays State University professional who works in a healthcare or counseling role:

- Health & Wellness Services (formerly Student Health Center), 785-628-4293
- Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, 785-625-4202

Student Support Services:

- Tiger Tech
<http://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Forsyth Library
<http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center
<https://www.fhsu.edu/WritingCenter/>

475 G – Intro to Digital Photo – Schedule***Spring 2022**

*Subject to change

Unit 1	Week 1	Tuesday	Jan. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the Course• Syllabus• Icebreaker• What is a Photograph? Presentation• Sound into Vision Project introduced• Watch DSLR Basics video ahead of next class• Review Exposure Basics Presentation and Composition Presentation ahead of next class
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		Thursday	Jan. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR CAMERAS TO CLASS • “Sound into Vision” Project discussion • Exposure Basics Presentation • Composition Presentation • 1.1 Exposure Basics & Composition Assignment started in class and finished as homework • Watch Lightroom Basics tutorials ahead of next class
	Week 2	Tuesday	Jan. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lightroom Basics (creating a catalog, organizing photos, export images) • Google Drive Basics • Discuss Exposure Basics & Composition Assignment • 1.2 “Sound into Vision” works-in-progress review • 1.3 Brief one-on-one meetings with instructor
		Thursday	Jan. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4 “Sound into Vision” Project Critique (digital) • “Narrative” Project introduced • Review “Narrative” Presentation ahead of next class
Unit 2	Week 3	Tuesday	Feb. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative Presentation • Discuss “Narrative” Project ideas as a group • 2.1 Recreation Assignment completed in class and finished as homework • Watch Lightroom editing tutorials ahead of next class
		Thursday	Feb. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss 2.1 Recreation Assignment submissions in class • 2.2 Student Narrative Presentations • Complete 2.3 Description Exercise in class • Review Lightroom Editing Techniques & How to Make a Contact Sheet in class • Make contact sheet PDF ahead of next class
	Week 4	Tuesday	Feb. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STUDENTS WILL NEED PAPER BY THIS CLASS • Review 2.4 Narrative Contact Sheets with peers in small groups • 2.5 One-on-one meetings with instructor about contact sheets • 2.6 In-class printing demo using Canon PRO-1000 inkjet printers • Test prints exercise • Come to next class with images to edit/print

		Thursday	Feb. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Day • Students can have the instructor review inkjet prints and ask questions about process
	Week 5	Tuesday	Feb. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.7 "Narrative" Critique • "Portraiture" Project introduced • Review "Portraiture" Presentation ahead of next class
Unit 3		Thursday	Feb. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Portraiture" Presentation • Discuss "Portraiture" Project ideas in class as a group • 3.1 "Collaborative Portraiture" Assignment started in class and is finished for homework
	Week 6	Tuesday	Feb. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss "Collaborative Portraiture" Assignment • 3.2 "Portraiture" Student Presentations • 3.3 Studio lighting exercise completed in class • Make contact sheet PDF ahead of next class
		Thursday	Feb. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.4 "Portraiture" Project contact sheet review • 3.5 One-on-one meetings with instructor about contact sheets • Come to next class with images to edit/print
	Week 7	Tuesday	Mar. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Day
		Thursday	Mar. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.6 "Portraiture" Project Critique • "Landscape" Project introduced
Unit 4	Week 8	Tuesday	Mar. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Landscape" Presentation • Discuss "Landscape" Project ideas in class as a group • HDR & Panorama demo • 4.1 "HDR & Panorama" Assignment started in class and is finished for homework • Assemble portfolio of 7-10 of your best work for the midterm meeting
		Thursday	Mar. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.2 One-on-one midterm meetings with instructor
	Week 9	Tuesday	Mar. 15	No Class – Spring Break
		Thursday	Mar. 17	No Class – Spring Break
	Week 10	Tuesday	Mar. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss "HDR & Panorama" Assignment • 4.3 "Landscape" Student Presentations • 4.4 Stacking exercise completed in class
		Thursday	Mar. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trip • 4.5 Exercise TBA

	Week 11	Tuesday	Mar. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.6 “Landscape” Project contact sheet review • 4.7 One-on-one meetings with instructor about contact sheets • Come to next class with images to edit/print
		Thursday	Mar. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Day
	Week 12	Tuesday	Apr. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.8 “Landscape” Project Critique • “Final” Project introduced
Unit 5		Thursday	Apr. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Final” Presentation • Discuss “Final” Project ideas in class as a group • 5.1 Exercise TBA
	Week 13	Tuesday	Apr. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Exercise 5.1 • 5.2 “Final” Student Presentations • 5.3 Peer Portfolio Review
		Thursday	Apr. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.4 Visiting artist talk • Individual portfolio reviews with visiting artist
	Week 14	Tuesday	Apr. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.5 “Final” Project contact sheet review • 5.6 One-on-one meetings with instructor about progress in the course
		Thursday	Apr. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7 Exercise TBA • Come to next class with at least 3 prints to discuss as part of the work-in-progress critique
	Week 15	Tuesday	Apr. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.8 “Final” Project work-in-progress critique • Come to next class with images to edit/print
		Thursday	Apr. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Day
	Week 16	Tuesday	May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab Day
		Thursday	May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.9 “Final” Project Critique
	Week 17	Tuesday	May 10	University Finals – No Class
		Thursday	May 12	University Finals – No Class